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The New York Times
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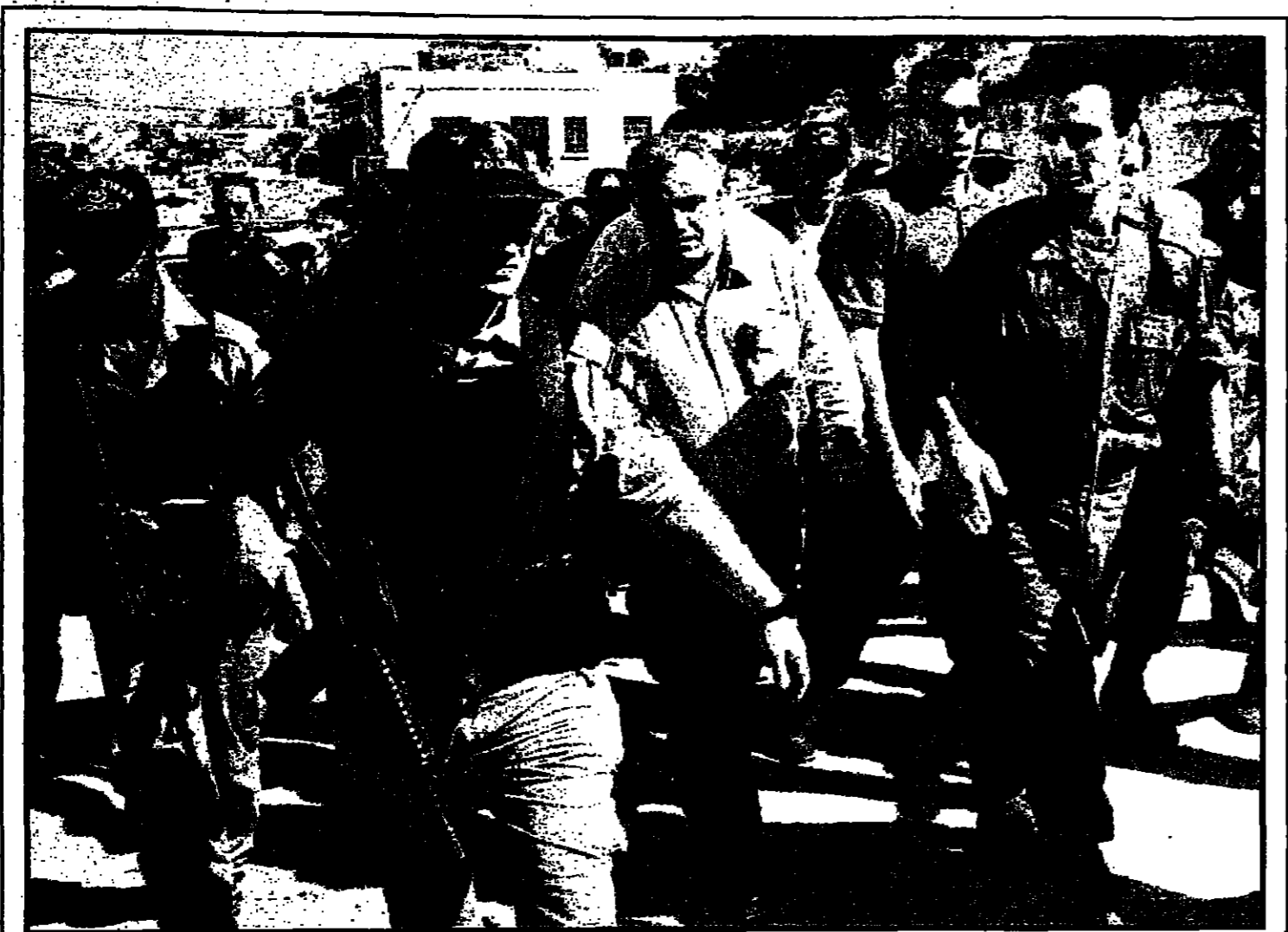
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Mordechai visits Hebron
Surrounded by soldiers and security men, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (center) walks down the main street in the Jewish section of Hebron yesterday. Story, Page 2. (Reuters)

Coalition MKs threaten to vote no-confidence

By LIAT COLLINS
A number of factions in the coalition are threatening to support tomorrow's no-confidence motions, following a series of meetings yesterday. Geshet faction head MK Maxim Levy is threatening to leave the coalition unless another Geshet minister is appointed to the cabinet. However, after a stormy, six-hour meeting yesterday, MK David Magen said Geshet is not demanding another minister, although the addition of two Likud ministers will change the power balance among the parties and violate the coalition agreement. Magen also called for early elections. Tension within the coalition was not diffused at yesterday's meeting between Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs and coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan. The meeting was called to discuss Yisrael Ba'aliya's demand to implement projects the party said it has been promised, such as an absorption program for immigrant scientists and public housing for immigrants. A party source described the atmosphere as "difficult" and noted that Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman had called on his party colleagues to vote against the government. MK Zvi Weinberg said unless Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accepts the party's demands, he could find himself without a coalition. Weinberg later conferred with Netanyahu by phone and told him that Yisrael Ba'aliya is likely to support the out of the coalition" still holds. Eitan apparently said committees would be established to look into implementing the demands, but Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs said their demands are promises which had been made when the coalition was formed and should therefore be implemented immediately. Yisrael Ba'aliya plans to meet again with Eitan before the vote and is also in touch with Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. Eitan said the efforts to find a solution to Yisrael Ba'aliya's demands would continue. He repeated his newly coined description of the coalition: "From crisis to crisis, our strength increases." Meanwhile, the Third Way executive called for a national unity government. "Only a national unity government will avoid a split in the nation and stop the blackmail which is paralyzing the government's actions," the faction declared. Tsomet also is expected to meet before the no-confidence motion to discuss its response to the possible cabinet reshuffle and other coalition matters.

Livnat: I will not defend PM

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Communications Minister Limor Livnat stepped down from her post as liaison between the cabinet and the Knesset "because I will not and cannot defend the prime minister's functioning in various matters and certainly not in the [Dan] Meridor affair," she said yesterday on Army Radio. She would not predict whether this government would last until the end of its term or whether she would remain in it until then, but reiterated that she has no intention, at this stage, of resigning from the cabinet. As to Meridor's statement that he is keeping open the option of running against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Livnat said it is too early to discuss this, "but in Israeli politics, everything is possible." Meridor, who resigned as finance minister last week, told Army Radio that he may challenge Netanyahu for the party leadership and the premiership. However, he said he would not leave the Likud to do so, "because the Likud was and remains my home." Meridor said he was flooded by hundreds of telephone calls and telegrams over the weekend, many of them from Likud members, commending him on his decision to resign, and supporting his motives. He refused to say whether he would vote against the government in tomorrow's no-confidence motion, saying only, "It's a known fact that I have no confidence in the prime minister."

Court bars croc wrestling

By LIAT COLLINS
In the latest round of the three-year fight over crocodile wrestling, the crocodiles won. The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a petition by the Let the Animals Live organization and agreed that performances, in which young crocodiles or alligators are grabbed from the water by their tails, flipped on their backs, and have their jaws forcibly opened are likely to cause suffering. The court said that such performances are banned under the Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law, which specifically bars pitting animals against each other or against humans. The group won a case against Hamat Gader in May 1995, which was overturned the following February. The ruling was upheld by the three-justice panel yesterday. The management of Hamat Gader maintained that there is no proof that the animals suffered anything more than discomfort. Hamat Gader general manager Roni Lotan claimed that the shows were "educational." The "matches" are always between carefully selected young animals to ensure the human wins, and the grappling part lasts only about 47 seconds. But, said Let the Animals Live spokeswoman Etti Altman, that is 47 seconds of physical and mental suffering and stress. "Even crocodiles have rights," she said. "It's a victory. I finally feel that something is moving in the field of animal rights in this country. I am grateful to the justices who saw fit to end this cruelty." "And I am proud that we have managed to ban crocodile wrestling in Israel, when it still goes on in Florida," said Altman. "I guess we have become, in at least this area, more enlightened than the United States." Altman said the case set a precedent that could be used against circuses and other spectator events involving animals in captivity. Justice Mishael Cheshin did not rule out teaching backpackers how to deal with alligators as part of a survival program, but ruled it is not permissible as entertainment. Hamat Gader was ordered to pay the group NIS 10,000 to cover legal costs.

Pupils' math, science add up to mediocrity

By JUDY SEGEL
Seven months after Israeli seventh and eighth graders gave a mediocre performance in math and science tests compared to pupils in 44 other countries, third- and fourth-grade pupils have been found to do no better. The Education Ministry's chief scientist, Prof. Zemira Mevarech, said yesterday that she is "very worried" by Israel's standing in the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS). "I don't want to plaster over the results, but the ministry has to study them carefully to find out whether pupils really lag behind in their knowledge, or if other factors can explain the disappointing performance, such as differences in curriculum," she said. The TIMSS rating is carried out at an international study center at Boston College. A representative sample of nearly one million pupils took the tests in 1994/5 in their own schools and in their own language. In addition to the tests in lower and middle grades, the pupils, teachers, and principals were asked questions about their backgrounds, attitudes, experiences, and practices in the teaching and learning of math and science. In both the lower and middle grade results, there were no simple correlations between pupil performance and a variety of variables, including the amount of homework, number of pupils in the classroom, length of the school day or year, or even the amount of time spent learning math and science. It is increasingly clear that no single factor can be properly considered in isolation from others, the organizers said. However, having strong educational resources at home, including a computer, dictionary, one's own study desk, and 100 or more books, were strongly related to math and science achievement in nearly every country. Among third and fourth graders, Singapore, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Austria were at the top of the list in math. Korea was the top-performing country in the younger grades in science.

See COALITION, Page 2

Cabinet reshuffle likely to be delayed

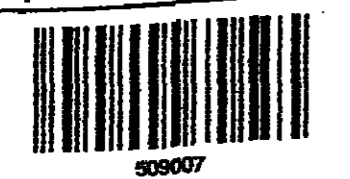
By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Growing internal strife over Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's plans to reshuffle the cabinet is likely to delay the planned presentation of his new team to the Knesset tomorrow. The proposed reshuffle is causing tension and unrest among the coalition partners, which have been engaged in intensive activity to decide on their respective positions and demands vis-a-vis the changes. The uncertainty of whether former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman is returning to the cabinet and the contradictory rumors concerning his position are adding to the tension. The Prime Minister's Office yesterday denied reports that Ne'eman had declined Netanyahu's offer to return to the cabinet. This was after senior National Religious Party politicians called Ne'eman, and then advised Netanyahu that he denied having turned down the offer. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said he had spoken to Ne'eman in the afternoon, and the latter confirmed that Netanyahu had officially offered him the chance to return to the cabinet. Ne'eman said he promised to give the prime minister his answer, Bazak said. Netanyahu's attempts to keep the details of the reshuffle a secret until tomorrow are intended to prevent last-minute pressure from coalition partners, party sources said. The coalition partners held intensive meetings yesterday to decide on their demands. Some claim the addition of two Likud ministers disrupts the balance set in the coalition agreement between the Likud and its coalition partners. MK Hanan Porat (NRP), whose faction is demanding Ne'eman be reinstated as justice minister, as he was promised when he resigned, said if Ne'eman receives a formal and respectable proposal from the prime minister to return to his post at the Justice Ministry, he would do so. Porat is acting to form a religious-haredi front which will issue a joint demand to reappoint Ne'eman justice minister. Porat has called a meeting of the religious and haredi factions tomorrow. Porat blasted Tzahi Hanegbi for "holding onto the Justice Ministry which was given to him... only until Ne'eman returns." Channel 2 reported last night that Ne'eman told senior religious politicians that he will fight to get back the Justice portfolio, while at the same time intimating to those close to him that he is not interested in any cabinet post. Ne'eman, Channel 2 said, is interested in getting back at Hanegbi, who attacked him at Likud gatherings for not being part of the Likud and therefore not deserving of the Justice Ministry. If Ne'eman decides not to return to the cabinet, then National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is to take over the Finance Ministry; Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav is to replace Sharon; Health Minister Yehoshua Mazza will be moved, at his request, to the Tourism Ministry; MK Silvan Shalom will be appointed health minister; and MK Michael Eitan will take over the Science Ministry, which has been left without a minister since Ze'ev Begin's resignation five months ago. Sharon's expected appointment as finance minister is arousing concern in the cabinet. It is said that Netanyahu wants to put Sharon in this key position to block Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's increasing popularity. Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy met yesterday for what was planned as a secret meeting, reportedly to discuss the new appointment and how it may affect their status in the cabinet. The two are also reportedly worried that Sharon's positions are much more hawkish than theirs. But Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu said the meeting was routine and did not deal with the political appointments.

Sinead O'Connor: I was unaware of volatility of Jerusalem issue

By DAVID BRINN
Sinead O'Connor was not aware that the Bat Shalom concert in support of sharing Jerusalem, at which she was to appear last week, was going to turn into such a volatile issue. "If I had known it would be so controversial, and it was going to end up with my life being threatened, I wouldn't have agreed to perform," she told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday, in her first response to the affair. O'Connor canceled her appearance, which was supposed to have taken place last Saturday night, in support of Bat Shalom and the concept "Two capitals for two states," after the British Embassy received a phone call threatening her life. "I was approached by a Palestinian women's group to do a concert for peace in Jerusalem. I'm 100 percent in support of sharing Jerusalem," she said, adding that she thought it was a universal theme which had widespread support. "I don't live in Israel, and I'm not interested in getting involved in its internal politics. I have nothing but love for the Jewish and the Palestinian people, and I feel sorry for the children growing up in a war-torn country. I also come from a war-torn country," the Irish singer said in a phone conversation from London. O'Connor refuted claims by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert that the concert had been canceled due to lack of ticket sales. "If I wasn't going to sell a lot of tickets, then the death threat would not have [been] made in the first place," she said. Over the weekend, O'Connor sent an open letter to Itamar Ben-Gvir, a right-wing extremist who had bragged he had scared the Irish singer away. "God does not reward those who bring terror to the children of the world. So you have succeeded in nothing but your soul's failure," O'Connor wrote. Ben-Gvir is a member of the Ideological Front, an offshoot of the outlawed Kach movement. O'Connor jokingly issued a "formal complaint" that the death threat was directed to the British Embassy and not the Irish Embassy. "He knew I was popular; he just didn't know where I was from," she said.



Sinead O'Connor (Shaul Rehaimim)



IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Easing tension between court and Orthodox

The plan to appoint two religious jurists to a Supreme Court that has been without a kippa among its justices since January was applauded yesterday in both religious and secular legal circles.

If the plan goes through, said National Religious Party MK Shmuel Yehalom, chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, it would be an indication that court President Aharon Barak is trying to be forthcoming to the religious community, something which "is very welcome."

Relations between segments of the religious community and the courts have been extremely tense since Barak assumed presidency. He has adjudicated a number of cases in a manner that has left the religious establishment feeling the court is infringing on its territory. The tension boiled over last year with virulent editorials against Barak in the haredi press, and threats on his life.

According to yesterday's press reports, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Barak have agreed that one religious judge will be selected to replace Tevi Tal, who

held the bench's "religious seat" until his retirement in January. Another religious judge will be tapped to replace Gabriel Bach, who retired in March. These appointments are likely to be approved at the next meeting of the judges' selection committee, which Hanegbi heads, scheduled for mid-July.

One of the religious judges, according to these reports, will be Hebrew University Prof. Yitzhak Englard, while the other selection has not yet been finalized.

A so-called "religious seat" on the court has been a part of the judicial landscape since the early 1950s. As the Supreme Court has gone from nine to 14 justices, there have been increasing calls in the religious community for more religious justices, but there has generally been only one.

An attempt earlier in the year by Barak to co-opt a rabbinical judge from the Supreme Rabbinical Council was unsuccessful because the judge, after consulting leading halachic authorities in the haredi world, declined the offer.

Two religious judges instead of

one is a step in the right direction, but in no way a revolution, said Yehalom. In his mind, a revolution would be if the court decided that matters of religion and state should be decided by the Knesset, not the court.

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker, who chaired the Knesset Law Committee under the previous government, also applauded the plan, saying the move is both "good and significant."

"It is fitting that in a polarized society like this, there is representation of the various sectors," he said.

As to complaints in the religious community that even two out of 14 judges is not sufficient, Zucker said, "Everyone feels they are not getting enough representation." What is important, he said, is not that the various sectors have exact proportionate representation on the bench, but that their values are represented.

The one sector truly lacking representation is the Arab community, Zucker said, adding that he knows the committee is searching for an Arab judge to be elevated to the court.



Third Way MK Alexander Lubotzky (left) chats with Prof. David Hartman (center), director of the Shalom Hartman Institute, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday at a seminar entitled 'Conversion, Halacha, and Responsibility of the State for World Jewry' held at the institute in Jerusalem. (Ariel Jeruzelski)

Conversion compromise interim agreement signed

By HAIM SHAPIRO

As of last night, the Reform movement was still trying to convince one of its converts, who had petitioned the High Court of Justice to have the conversion recognized, to withdraw the petition, so that the agreement signed yesterday between the coalition and the Reform and Conservative movements could be implemented without any problems.

Earlier in the day, three other Reform converts also had insisted on pressing forward with their petitions, but they agreed to delay them after a personal appeal from coalition chairman MK Michael Eitan, who signed the agreement, along with Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Committee, and Rabbi Reuven Hammer, head of the Conservative movement's rabbinical court for conversions in Israel.

The signing took place in the office of Bobby Brown, the prime minister's adviser on Diaspora affairs. In addition, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu signed a letter to the members of the Conservative

and Reform movements who had come to meet with him in an effort to stop the passage of the controversial conversion bill, which stipulates that the Chief Rabbinate must validate all conversions to Judaism performed in Israel.

The agreement calls for a seven-person committee, including a representative each from the Conservative and Reform movements, to arrive at a formulation for registering conversions. According to a number of sources,

including Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, the committee is to be headed by former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman.

"I think if there is anyone who can pull the process together, it is probably Ya'acov Ne'eman," Regev said yesterday. Regev, who added that his movement has great expectations for the success of the committee's deliberations, said he thought it was likely that the High Court would agree to delay its hearings on the issue of conversions in light of the preponderance of petitioners who are asking the court to do so.

Petitions from the State and the Reform and Conservative movements to postpone the case were presented to the High Court last night. It was asked to render a decision on the postponement within 48 hours.

Eitan agreed that in addition to the seven-person committee, there be a three-person panel appointed to focus on the conversion of adopted children. Na'amat, which demanded this as a condition for withdrawing its petition to the High Court, is to have a representative on that committee.

The deal with the non-Orthodox

The agreement between the Conservative and Reform movements and coalition chairman Michael Eitan includes the following points:

- The proposed conversion bill is not to be presented to the Knesset for its second and third (final) readings.
- The state attorney, for the government, and the petitioners to the High Court of Justice and the Jerusalem District Court are to ask the courts to postpone their rulings on the issue of conversions performed by Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel. The two movements are to attempt to persuade the petitioners to join in this request.
- The prime minister is to establish a seven-member committee, to include one representative each from the Reform and Conservative movements.
- The committee is to formulate a detailed proposal, satisfactory to all parties, for the registration of converts.
- The committee is to present its recommendations by August 15, the coalition is to approve the recommendations within three weeks, and any necessary legislation is to be completed within two months after that.

Haim Shapiro

Man gets a new heart - and a bypass

By JUDY SIEGEL

The life of a 42-year-old man has been saved in a first-in-Israel procedure giving him a new heart and carrying out bypass surgery in the transplanted organ, which had a clogged artery.

The pioneering surgery - which has rarely been carried out abroad - was performed at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer by Dr. Ya'acov Lavie, Prof. Aram Smoliansky, and Dr. Violeta Glaublar.

The patient was hospitalized two weeks ago in the coronary intensive care unit after suffering from terminal cardiac insufficiency due to a viral infection of the heart muscle.

His condition deteriorated rapidly, and his only hope was a heart transplant.

Although he was put on the high-priority list, no heart was found for him. On Saturday night, doctors received a heart whose muscle function was normal, but the donor suffered from atherosclerosis in one coronary artery.

Since there was no other way to save him, they decided to transplant the heart and unclog the artery.

Only 10 such dual-stage operations have been done anywhere in the world.

The complex operation was successful, and the man is now stable and recuperating in the intensive care unit.

The same donor also supplied lungs to a 53-year-old man.

Meanwhile, at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, doctors performed a coronary bypass on a beating heart - without stopping the heart and attaching the patient to a heart-lung machine. The reason for the procedure was that the patient was at high-risk for a stroke.

At the same time, the patient underwent an angioplasty and the introduction of a stent to hold a major coronary artery open. Prof. Gideon Merin, head of cardiovascular surgery, said he believed it is the first time such a dual procedure was carried out simultaneously.



'Post' writer gets award
MK Adisu Massala (Labor) yesterday presents 'Jerusalem Post' feature writer Sue Fishkoff with the B'nai B'rith World Center Award for Journalism, given for her May 1996 feature that traced the trip of eight Ethiopian immigrant teenagers back to their native villages. (Issac Harari)

Benvinisti: Self-help key to Palestinian power in J'lem

By ELI WOHLGELERTER

The only way for Palestinians to gain political power in Jerusalem is through their own efforts, and not by trying to persuade Israelis with more arguments or by trying to come up with an agreed-upon solution for the city, historian and former Jerusalem deputy mayor Meron Benvinisti said at the end of last week.

For example, he suggested the Palestinians create a voluntary municipal government that would start to manage aspects of community life on its own.

"I don't see why Palestinians should behave any different than the Jewish yishuv before 1948," he said. "To wait for a solution that will descend complete from heaven and then we'll be able to open the gate of Arab Jerusalem - it will never come."

Benvinisti was speaking at a forum entitled "The Future of Jerusalem" sponsored by Jerusalem Link, a group of Israeli and Palestinian women, as part of their week-long program of events

entitled "Sharing Jerusalem: Two Capitals for Two States."

Benvinisti said Israelis are not going to be persuaded by more arguments about the Palestinian cause, and "therefore the whole question about raising the consciousness of Israelis about the situation in Jerusalem is not going to be helpful. The only way one can go about it is by using the facts on the ground. It is a question of small steps and fights, in which you have a very strong Israeli group that gives support. There's no other way. Self-help should be the key."

He, along with panelist MK Yael Dayan (Labor), decried the growing industry of peace plans that are constantly being put forth, and peace conferences that are held to discuss them. Dayan, who admitted being a part of that industry for the past 10 years, said she did not sign the group's declaration calling for two capitals in Jerusalem, because it is not part of her party's platform.

Nevertheless, she said, "I want to say that I believe there is a solution. It lies in something like

widening the area of Jerusalem, because then it will be easier to take away from it, and make it Jerusalem/al-Kuds. It doesn't matter if it's Abu Dis or another neighborhood - once there is a hold in any area of Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, it can grow afterwards to include the east Jerusalem population."

Faisal Hussein, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem, said that after the Cold War, old regimes collapsed, agreements abrogated, and countries created. He cited as an example Armenia, which avoided the troubles that hit Bosnia in a similar situation.

"We need to have an Armenian solution here, so that if we face any kind of change in the next century, we will not be forced - both of us - to pay a high price."

Women's yeshiva claims ministry not providing required funding

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Though the High Court of Justice ruled that the Religious Affairs Ministry must support Israel's only Torah institution for women that is recognized as a higher yeshiva, the yeshiva said yesterday that the ministry is dragging its heels.

Rabbi Yehuda Henkin, whose wife heads Nishmat, an Orthodox institution in Jerusalem's Bayit Vegan neighborhood, said that the ministry thus far had paid less than a third of some NIS 300,000 that was due. In March, after the institution had petitioned the court, the ministry signed an agreement providing that the school's students be classified as yeshiva students.

In the past, women's institutions were classified in different categories than those for men, and the

schools for women received a quarter to a third of the subsidies paid to yeshivot.

"Today, many women students study Torah as many hours and as seriously as do men."

He added that the ministry asks for full documentation, for example, for women who graduated from Stern College, the women's

college of Yeshiva University, while it does not ask for similar documentation for male graduates of Yeshiva University.

Ministry sp the ministry is making no excessive demands on Nishmat, he added.

Nishmat, which was founded in 1990, has 50 full-time students and 150 part-time students.

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Tensions below summit surface

By DAVID E. SANGER

DENVER (New York Times) — President Clinton and the leaders of Russia, Japan and Western Europe plunged into the messy business of defining their new roles in the global economy this weekend, with Russia pressing for quick entry into the World Trade Organization and Europe struggling to save its effort to unify under a single currency.

Buoyed by the strongest economic performance in the world, Clinton exuded optimism at the opening of the summit meeting, which until this year was called the Group of Seven, but now, with the inclusion of Russia, is formally called the Summit of the Eight. Nevertheless the president's aides were clearly skeptical that Russia and Europe were prepared to adopt the major economic reforms that US officials believe are necessary in the next year or two.

In return for its grudging agreement to the expansion of NATO, Russia was all but promised entry by next year into the World Trade Organization, the club of trading nations. The move would greatly help its exports by lowering tariffs on Russian-made goods.

But administration officials say they are highly skeptical that President Boris Yeltsin can move that quickly to push through the wrenching market openings and legal changes that are the price of entry. Similar problems have bogged down negotiations over China's effort to enter the trading group.

As the weekend meeting of the eight leaders opened here Friday, administration officials were also dancing around the question of whether Europe's effort to create a single currency, the euro, by 1999 could threaten the financial stability of America's oldest trading partners. European officials had pressed for a blanket endorsement of the single currency in an economic statement released Saturday.



US President Bill Clinton waves to reporters as the leaders of the world's biggest economic powers and Russia head out to a dinner of rattle-snake steak this weekend in Denver. (Reuters)

But the United States, with the backing of Japan and Britain, insisted on a far more conditional endorsement. The final statement says the leaders would welcome monetary union if it was accompanied by major economic reforms, and "would contribute to the stability of the international monetary system." Those are code words for an end to the inflexible rules that have prevented companies from paring down, moving workers, and becoming

far more competitive on world markets. "France, Germany and Italy share the challenging task of restoring strong employment growth," the economic statement said. "While pursuing efforts toward restoring sound fiscal positions they will need to deepen structural reforms to reduce barriers to job creation and to increase efficiency of government actions and, where necessary, reshape its role in their economies." In

Saturday's discussion among the leaders, there was a vigorous debate between France and other participants over whether it is possible to shorten the French work week, which the new Socialist government has promised, without slowing economic growth. US officials have argued that Europe's work week needs to be lengthened, but it is unclear whether the United States pressed that argument Saturday. A senior administration official

said here on Friday that beneath the bland wording of the statement, "there is a lot more nervousness than there was just a month or two ago that the Europeans haven't grappled with the real implications of what they are attempting." "We haven't gone as far as saying that they are on the verge of messing up the continent — that would only fuel their resentment — but you'll probably hear some more explicit description of the risks," the official said.



Grainy photographs that are alleged to show Russia's justice minister with women in a sauna that's run by organized crime groups have set off a scandal in Russia. (Reuters)

Russian PM suspends justice minister in sauna scandal

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia's justice minister, caught in a scandal over a video film showing naked sauna scenes, will be removed from office temporarily pending an inquiry, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said yesterday.

Valentin Kovalyov, who is also a member of Russia's top-level Security Council, asked President Boris Yeltsin to suspend him while he cleared his name.

His request came after publication of grainy snaps taken from the video, showing him in a sauna with women.

"We will suspend him temporarily from his duties," Chernomyrdin said. "But things have to be investigated. I would prefer not to make any decisions based just on the publication."

Chernomyrdin recalled the 53-year-old former law professor from a foreign trip on Friday when the story broke. "He is a lawyer. He knows how to defend himself. Let him prove it is not true."

In a country long known for official secrecy, few, if any, Russian ministers have had to resign because of scandals. In the Soviet era, newspapers almost never put the spotlight on serving ministers.

Moscow's powerful mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, said Kovalyov should quit. He described the allegations as "inadmissible for a person in such an important job."

Russian television stations have broadcast brief excerpts from a black-and-white video shot using a hidden camera. The TV said the video was shot at a gangland night-club sauna in September 1995. Kovalyov, who became justice minister in January 1995, said in a statement this weekend that he had nothing to be ashamed of.

Khmer faction expected to turn over Pol Pot to gov't

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) — Khmer Rouge strongman Pol Pot is still alive and will be handed over to the Cambodian government very soon, a government general said yesterday.

"Pol Pot is still alive. I met him this morning," General Nhiek Bun Chhay said.

Earlier yesterday, Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen said he had received an unconfirmed report that the 69-year-old guerrilla leader, blamed for the "killing fields" deaths of over one million of his people in the 1970s, was dead. He has long suffered from malaria.

Nhiek Bun Chhay, who has spearheaded talks with Khmer Rouge renegades who broke with Pol Pot earlier this month, said the guerrilla leader was being detained at the Anlong Veng jungle headquarters of the breakaway Khmer Rouge faction which captured him last week.

The general said the breakaway rebel faction had agreed to dissolve its political and military wings and recognize the government.

The elusive Pol Pot would be handed over to the government soon, said Nhiek Bun Chhay, Cambodia's deputy chief of general staff. "They will give Pol Pot to the government very soon," he said.

Speaking on his return from Anlong Veng, the general said he did not talk to Pol Pot but saw him inside a house where he was being detained, adding: "He is very old." Nhiek Bun Chhay said he had not taken a picture of the Khmer Rouge leader, who has not been seen in public since shortly after his brutal regime was overthrown in 1979.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said he wanted to see Pol Pot moved out of Anlong Veng as soon as possible. Ranariddh and his party have led efforts to strike a deal with more moderate elements of the Khmer



Nhiek Bun Chhay, deputy chief of Cambodia's army, in Phnom Penh yesterday. (Reuters)

Rouge, angering Hun Sen, who sees any agreement between Ranariddh and the breakaway group as a threat to his position.

New York back on murder track

NEW YORK (New York Times) — Six men were killed in separate incidents during a 12-hour period this weekend.

The recent violence came at a time when the city was experiencing a 50 percent drop in homicides since 1993. The last time the city experienced this many unrelated killings was in March 1996. Five people were killed within a 10-hour span then, just days after eight killings were recorded in a 24-hour period.

At least three of this weekend's killings resulted from disputes, police said. One of the slayings, that of Larry Egerton, 46, in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, occurred when a man wearing a ski mask approached him on a bicycle, tried to rob him and then opened fire, police said.

There were no apparent motives in the last two of the six slayings.

While some detectives linked the violence to the full moon, officials said it was just a statistical happenstance. "We have had that before," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said at a news briefing. "Murder is down more this year, than last year."

Last June, the city had 97 murders, the mayor said. "So far this year — the month is like two-thirds gone — we have half of that. So I would not be concerned about one day. You look at an entire month." According to preliminary statistics released earlier this month by the FBI, the number of homicides across the nation declined by 11% last year compared to 1995. In New York, the number of homicides dropped

to 986 in 1996 from 1,177 in 1995. Looking at a three-year period, between 1993 and 1996, the murder rate was cut nearly in half.

The first of the six killings occurred at 5:20 p.m. in the Bronx. Detectives in Staten Island found the body of the sixth victim exactly 12 hours later at 5:20 a.m. In Queens, a man was stabbed and shot to death at 1:15 a.m. by a group of people he was drinking with, police said. At 2:57 a.m. in Washington Heights, a man was shot in a gun battle with another man. He died three hours later.

Egerton was killed in Brooklyn at 4:27 a.m., and a 20-year-old unidentified man was shot in the Bronx at 4:59 a.m. A second victim in that shooting was in critical condition at Lincoln Hospital.

Defection boosts Turkey's PM-designate

ANKARA (AP) — A deputy defected yesterday from the Islamic-led alliance to a pro-Western bloc under premier-designate Mesut Yilmaz, but Yilmaz was still far short of the support he needs for a majority in parliament.

Haluk Mufitler, from Tansu Ciller's True Path party, handed in his resignation a day after Yilmaz called on parties to join forces with his Motherland party against the Islamic Welfare Party. "We are expecting more defections

in the coming days," Yilmaz said. Ciller's party is also pro-Western, but the former premier a year ago took it into a coalition with Welfare leader Necmettin Erbakan, who stepped down as prime minister last week under pressure from the pro-secular military, which had been angered by his religious policies. Mufitler was expected to officially join Motherland today, Yilmaz said.

Erbakan had been hoping Ciller could have led the coalition until early elections, possibly this fall, in a bid to appease the military. But President Suleyman Demirel refused to approve the power-swap, which would have left Welfare with key cabinet posts. Instead he asked Yilmaz, a bitter, center-right rival of Ciller, to try to form a government.

Nazi past catches up to adventurer

VIENNA (AP) — A Nazi past has caught up with Austrian explorer and writer Heinrich Harrer just months before a multimillion-dollar movie is released about his time in Tibet, where he tutored the Dalai Lama.

Seven years in Tibet, starring Brad Pitt, is based on the best-selling book Harrer wrote in the early 1950s after he fled Tibet's capital, Lhasa, during the Chinese invasion. It is to be released Oct. 8 by Tri-Star, a division of Sony.

German magazine Stern last month published details revealing that Harrer joined the Nazi party when Germany took control of Austria in 1938. The prominent mountaineer also joined the SS. At a time when Nazi organizations still were banned in Austria, 21-year-old Harrer joined the SA in 1933.

The film's French director, Jean-Jacques Annaud, said he had suspected Harrer had Nazi connections. But Annaud added that after the war, "he devoted his life to nonviolence, human rights and racial equality."

Harrer, now 84, said that "from today's view the former party and SS membership is an extremely unpleasant thing." He added that he had a "clear conscience." Harrer said he joined the party to further his teaching and mountaineering careers.

Harrer told Stern that without this membership he would have had no chance to join a government-financed Himalaya expedition, his life's dream. At the end of that expedition, Harrer and a colleague were arrested by British troops in India, only to escape through Tibet to Lhasa, where Harrer taught the Dalai Lama mathematics, English and sports.

GAME TIME

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Scitex Corporation Ltd.
Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Scitex Corporation Ltd., will be held at the offices of the Company, Hamada Street, Industrial Park, Herzlia B, Israel, on Monday, June 30, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. Shareholders of record at the close of business on May 26, 1997, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting and notices, proxy solicitation material and forms of proxy have been mailed to such shareholders. Shareholders who are interested in further information should contact David Shulman, the Corporate Secretary of the Company, Tel: 09-968-7334. Herzlia, Israel, June 23, 1997

مكتبة القدس

Jerusalem Post
Intelligent politician could cleverly use this defect in the public
Elected a guy who wasn't sharp enough to even fool us!

ending

room

A New Leaf

Now, the Archenemies Need Each Other

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON
THERE has never been a business lobby quite like Big Tobacco. For decades, its clout in Washington and state capitals was legendary, its prowess acknowledged by friend and foe.

Politicians crossed Big Tobacco at their peril. Most didn't try. Tobacco industry war chests poured cash into efforts to block new cigarette taxes and anti-smoking ordinances, to elect friends and crush enemies.

The Tobacco Institute, headquarters of the industry's effort to rebut the evidence that smoking makes people sick, was a Washington powerhouse. "Dollar for dollar, they're probably the most effective lobby on Capitol Hill," Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat, said of it in 1979.

No more. State and local anti-smoking laws have swept the country in the face of Big Tobacco's strenuous objections. When President Clinton moved to restrict cigarette sales and advertising just 11 weeks before Election Day last year, he reckoned that he had more to gain from attacks on tobacco than he would lose in tobacco-growing states. Bob Dole, the Republican candidate, suffered politically when he suggested that tobacco might not be addictive and that the Government should not regulate it.

For anti-smoking crusaders, nothing has brought more joy than the waning influence of Big Tobacco.

Until now.
For suddenly last week, with the conclusion of an agreement by the industry to submit to regulation of tobacco as a drug, to curtail its advertising and to pay more than \$360 billion in exchange for protection from lawsuits, Big Tobacco and its lifelong enemies now need each other.

A Skeptical Congress

And the deal cannot take effect without approval from a Congress that has already pronounced itself deeply skeptical. So, the anti-smoking forces that helped negotiate the new agreement have no hope of winning support for it unless the industry's lobbyists exert their influence.

Republicans like Representative Thomas J. Bliley Jr. of Virginia, long a friend of the industry, have scorned efforts by the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco. The prospect that the industry will now urge him to support a vast expansion of the agency's powers boggles the mind. But such efforts will be necessary because Mr. Bliley is chairman of the House Commerce Committee, which has authority over the F.D.A.

Kathryn Kahler Vose, a spokeswoman for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which took part in the negotiations, said: "We have been at war with the tobacco companies. But we will urge Congress to support this package, and we anticipate that the tobacco companies will do so too. The nation will lose the many public health benefits of this agreement if Congress doesn't approve it. That would be really tragic."

Tobacco companies described the settlement as "a bitter pill," and in a joint statement, they said it called for new laws and regulations "with which we do not necessarily agree" — a possible signal of trouble to come. But they promised to support it "in order to achieve a resolution in the public interest."

Although Big Tobacco has been on the defensive for years, it still has big resources that the anti-smoking forces lack, and need. Tobacco companies bankroll many of the super-lawyers and lobbyists in Washington. Its roster of advisers includes blue-ribbon firms like Covington & Burling, Arnold & Porter and Williams & Connolly.

How closely the state attorneys general, public health groups and cigarette makers will work together is unclear. But they share a common objective, translating

their agreement into an enforceable Federal law.

For years to come, if the agreement survives, these strange bedfellows will depend on one another in ways they never have before. Together, they may become a new sort of lobby, prodding Congress to bless the agreement they forged.

The Lawyers Balk

Some people who hate cigarettes oppose the agreement simply on the ground that it does not go far enough to eradicate smoking. But more formidable opposition may come from plaintiffs' lawyers and their clients who want an unfettered opportunity to recover damages.

In a statement in January, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America said, "Our court and jury system must not be denied the opportunity to hold the tobacco industry accountable in the best traditions of American justice." Howard F. Twigg, president of the association, said then that "Congress must not emasculate the very justice system that is only beginning to unearth the truth about tobacco."

Several past presidents of the association took part in the negotiations on behalf of plaintiffs, but the group itself has indicated that it will oppose any provisions of a settlement that curtail the rights of future claimants.

The agreement seems to have already split the ranks of anti-smoking advocates. The American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the American Medical Association backed the settlement talks this month. But other anti-tobacco groups like the American Lung Association opposed them, fearing that the industry would gain more from a deal than consumers. All the groups are now evaluating the agreement.

On Friday, Dr. John R. Seffrin, chief executive of the American Cancer Society, said he was "encouraged by the public health concepts" that appear to be embodied in the settlement. But John R. Garrison, managing director of the American Lung Association, said, "Now is not the time to settle."

Whether parties to the agreement will staunchly defend it on Capitol Hill or whether they will seek extra advantage for themselves is uncertain. Before it can take effect, the agreement appears to require numerous steps

Continued on Page 3

No Victors, Only Spoils

How the War Goes On (And On) in Cambodia

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

AS Cambodia wobbles yet again on the edge of a violent implosion, barely five years (and billions of dollars) after the United Nations mounted the largest national recovery mission in its history, the rest of the world might justifiably wonder, as an anonymous diplomat asked last week, whether Cambodians are simply bent on killing each other. "Let them be," seems to be the common sentiment. "We have done all we can for them."

That's the problem. There has always been foreign meddling in the affairs of this extraordinary country of Buddhist piety, royalist loyalty, artistic brilliance, exquisite natural beauty and inexplicably deep strains of human cruelty and venality.

Thailand, France, Japan, Vietnam, China, the United States have had a hand in writing and rewriting Cambodia's history and, more broadly, the history of Indochina. A short but not small part of the story is known to Americans as the Vietnam War.

The effects of that war are still being felt throughout Southeast Asia. Perhaps it was fateful coincidence last week that while rumors were flying in Cambodia that Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader responsible for at least a million deaths from 1975 to 1979, had been captured, Robert McNamara, the American Defense Secretary who played a major role in raising United States stakes in the war, was in Vietnam discussing how that war could have been avoided. Perhaps, too, he had learned enough to know that history did not begin with the Americans.

The Indochinese conflicts of this century have roots in old animosities that were easily exploited by new players. The ancient Siamese were such a perennial threat to the Khmer people of what is now Cambodia that the home of the stupendous temples and palaces at Angkor was joyously and proudly named Siam Reap, for victory over Siam.

Modern Thailand, which inherited that Siamese legacy, has never given up the game. The Thai military until very recently enjoyed a lucrative business partnership with the Khmer Rouge that allowed generals to exploit impoverished Cambodia's timber and gemstones.

Vietnam was Cambodia's other traditional foe. Some scholars on how Pol Pot came to power believe that the Khmer Rouge's vicious hate propaganda against Vietnam earned it genuine support — and still does, because Cambodians believe their two larger neighbors will always fight over them.

But Siam and Vietnam were outdone by France, which consolidated its hold over Indochina — Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos — by the late 19th century. Decades of relative peace followed, until World War II when Japan occupied much of Southeast Asia. When the Japanese were driven out in 1945, it was only a matter of time before French Indochina became independent countries in 1953-54 — and again vulnerable.

It is fitting that Mr. McNamara and veterans of the leftist-nationalist movement in Vietnam should be talking about how the war got out of control, because the critical decisions made in Hanoi and Washington in the 1950's and 1960's still send out ripples.

After the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 and the division of Vietnam, the communist leadership under Ho Chi Minh decided that the conquest of South Vietnam, not national development, was the top priority. America's entry did not deter Hanoi, only raised the real and human costs of its policy.

"Vietnam was prepared to make extreme sacrifices, but the Americans didn't understand this," Deputy Foreign Minister Dao Huy Ngoc told the gathering on Friday.

The war set Vietnam back at least a generation, but Hanoi thought the price worth the prize. While other Southeast Asian nations were spawning tiger-cub economies, the country was re-educating its people. The economic damage was compounded when



A stone guardian peers from the overgrown gateway to a Cambodian temple.

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Less work, more pay: France keeps the dream alive.

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Nobody watches all-news TV, but it's a big success.

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Economists take another look at low-wage factories.

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Clinton's foreign aid gamble: human rights for U.S. dollars.

By Raymond Bonner

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Ideas & Trends

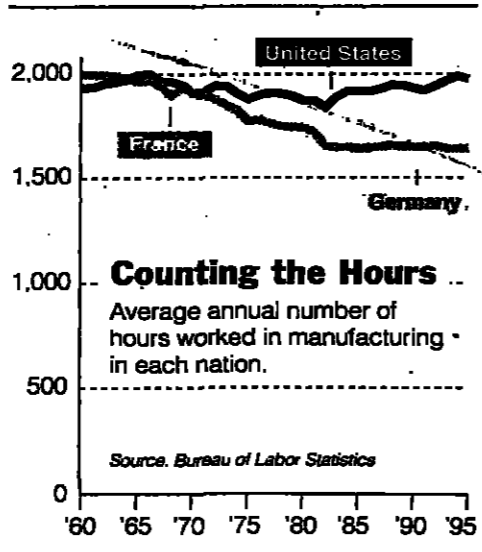
How to Succeed in Politics Without Really Working

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

IMAGINE. The French Socialists want to shrink the work week by four hours, but without shrinking anyone's pay, which is wonderful politics, no doubt, but lousy economics. French industrialists must be itching to relocate to southeast Asia — or the United States, for that matter — where the natives will work more hours, not fewer, for no extra money.

That resignation is becoming entrenched in America. Neither President Clinton nor the Republicans dream of matching the campaign promise of Lionel Jospin, the newly elected French Prime Minister. The best they do is the Family Leave Act, which allows time off without pay. Even Mr. Jospin, in a speech to Parliament last week, hedged on his promise to reduce the standard French work week to 35 hours from 39 with no loss of pay. He suggested that workers might have to wait up to five years for this to happen.

And yet Mr. Jospin has tapped into a yearning that goes back to the early days of the industrial revolution, when people realized that their new ways of production were generating far more wealth than they had known in the past. So the industrial nations



The New York Times

ing to data compiled by the Labor Department.

"There is no right way, but there is a balance," said Thomas Kochan, a labor economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management. "We have probably overextended on the work side, and we are likely to see a backlash, perhaps from younger people."

The global economy changed things. Over the last couple of decades, less wealth has accumulated in the big industrial nations, and more in the developing countries. Faced with this competition, the United States has reversed course, adding hours.

The American reversal coincided with a change in the distribution of wealth. A disproportionate share of the more slowly rising national income went to the top third of American households, while the rest of the population did not earn enough to keep up with inflation. That inequality ended up encouraging both rich and poor to spend more time on the job — that and the growing job insecurity that came with downsizing.

The Affluent, Too

"The average American worker once got healthy raises, and of course he said he wanted some of it in more vacation time," said Richard Freeman, a Harvard economist. Now, Mr. Freeman and others argue, the less fortunate have to work more hours to earn enough to sustain their living standards. The wealthy also have embraced longer hours, but for a different reason. For many professional people — lawyers, engineers, consultants, managers — "working longer hours has become the way to impress the boss and get promoted," Mr. Freeman said, "and shorter hours is thought of as giving up on the job. If we felt more secure we would probably work fewer hours."

Western Europe, distributing income



Talking to the streets in 1995 to protect benefits, a man dressed as an elderly woman pleads, "Don't touch my small savings please."

The French elected the man who promised a shorter work week.

sought to translate some of their rising wealth into leisure time for workers, and eventually that happened. In 1870, Americans, Germans, French, Japanese and British averaged nearly 3,000 hours a year on the job. Now it is less than 2,000 hours, with much of the decline having come since World War II.

Each reduction in hours came at a cost, of course. A 6 percent raise — not unusual in more robust times — might be divided between 3 percent in cash and 3 percent in time off. Or workers might get their raises all in cash, and earn the leisure time through greater productivity — producing in, say, seven hours all the goods and services they had needed eight hours to turn out a year or two earlier. The hour saved became time off.

Americans led in this process, and by the 1960's the average worker had fewer hours on the job than those in any of the other major industrial nations. Leisure had become a national goal, a badge of one's wealth. Today, all that is lost. Weekly schedules might be similar, but when vacations and holidays are factored in, no one in Western Europe works more hours in a year, on average, than Americans, accord-

more evenly, has continued the struggle for more leisure time, although the wealth to pay for it has diminished. And that is why Mr. Jospin's proposal is greeted with such skepticism — more like a campaign promise that draws cheers, and votes, for its good intentions, although few really expect it to happen.

"The French, being more ideological, have trouble admitting they have to pay for working less," said Gerhard Bosch, a German sociologist who is vice president of the Institute of Work and Technology near Düsseldorf. "But they do; everyone knows that."

The differing approaches — America's and Western Europe's — naturally lead to finger-pointing. Mr. Bosch is a finger-pointer. The Americans, he says, should reduce their enormous overtime, and that would chip away at inequality by pulling more people into higher-paying jobs. The overtime is particularly noticeable among skilled, higher-paid factory workers — the American corporate preference being to work existing staff longer hours rather than hire more people for these costly jobs.

"If the companies hired more people in lieu of overtime," Mr. Bosch said, "many low-paid people would give up bad jobs and

make the switch. The problem is the United States has no national mechanism — like laws that limit the number of hours people can work — for redistributing work in a fair way. And unions are too weak to do this."

Some American experts are similarly critical of the Western Europeans. Unemployment rates are generally much higher there than in the United States, a result in part of national austerity programs that dampen

Americans and Europeans agree: The other is wrong.

economic activity, although the intention is to prepare each nation for a single European currency. But Alan Krueger, a labor economist at Princeton University, points to a different explanation of unemployment that has emerged from his research — different even from the usual American criticism.

The usual American criticism is that European companies would step up their hiring, and reduce their unemployment, if wages were lower. In this view, pay, hours and unemployment are intertwined. In Mr. Krueger's view, though, there is not much correlation between wages and employment. The Europeans' main problem, he says, is regulations that prevent entrepreneurs from setting up companies quickly and easily and operating.

"There would be no hiring if there were more employers," Mr. Krueger said.

Whatever the back and forth, Americans, the well-off and the low-wage, seem locked into longer hours. With so many women in the work force putting in long hours, that puts tremendous pressure on family life. But rather than a rebellion, an adjustment of sorts is apparently being made, at least for higher-income people.

"We are seeing a lot more hidden flexibility on the part of companies in response to family needs," Mr. Kochan said. "People are finding informal ways to take time off, or to work from home, or at odd hours. There is a lot more individual bargaining going on in the professional and white-collar ranks."

Hated Callers

Answering the Phone as an Act of Revenge

By JOE SHARKEY

IT'S seven o'clock, and Nicole is on the phone demanding to know how you are this evening. Of course, Nicole doesn't really care, so long as you are breathing and willing to listen to her scripted pitch for a home equity loan from some bank with a name that sounds like a greeting-card imprint.

Since your parents probably taught you to be civil to strangers, you may be reluctant to insult Nicole and the thousands of her colleagues toiling at low wages to pound out phone-pitch pestilence morning and night from boiler rooms across America. This disinclination to be rude, which is especially marked among older people, has helped boost unsolicited telemarketing sales 20 percent a year.

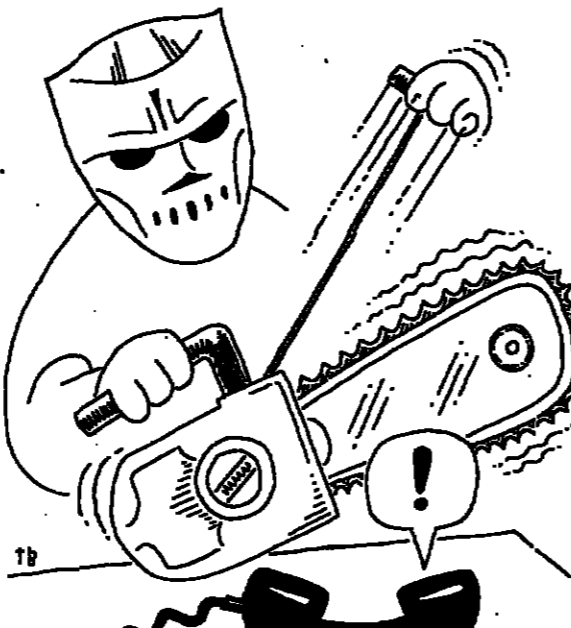
But a backlash against these annoying intrusions is blazing in grassroots America.

"Telemarketing is simply sociopathic behavior," said Robert S. Bulmash, who heads a 2,000-member consumer group, Private Citizen Inc., which opposes abusive telemarketing and has taken on its newborn love child: junk E-mail.

First, Get Off the List

Mr. Bulmash founded Private Citizen in Naperville, Ill., after successfully suing a persistent telemarketer in 1986. The judge, grumbling that he himself had been interrupted continually while trying to watch a football game on television the previous night, awarded Mr. Bulmash damages of 97 cents — the monthly cost of having an unlisted phone number. Energized by the legal victory, Mr. Bulmash said he set out to learn all he could about the techniques and the technology of the telemarketing industry, some of which he collected in a book, "So You Want to Sue a Telemarketer."

Lawsuits are usually inconvenient for those who simply want to stop hucksters from invading their domestic privacy. Mr. Bulmash and other anti-telemarketers all recommend instructing an unwanted caller to remove your name and number from the company's "call list," which they are required to do by law. Compli-



ance can be spotty, especially with local small businesses. And it does not prevent the next telemarketer from getting through.

The Direct Marketing Association, a Manhattan-based trade group sensitive to public backlash, also accepts requests to place a name and number on its widely distributed "do not call" list, which at least reduces the number of unsolicited calls. (Send your name and phone number to the Direct Marketing Association Telephone Preference Service, P.O. Box 9014, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735-9014.)

Then, Turn on the Tape Recorder

Getting on such a list "makes sense, but it isn't much fun," noted Vince Nestico, a 25-year-old draftsman who created a Web site, The Anti-Telemarketer Source (www.lizzy.net/~vnestico/t-market.html), after moving to a new house in suburban Detroit and being bombarded with telemarketing calls.

Mr. Nestico's Web site declares, "It's time to fight back!" and solicits contributions on how to annoy telemarketers. They pour in daily, he said.

Mr. Nestico said he is compiling material for a "Telemarketer Torture Tape" that he plans to sell. It will feature recorded announcements that can be played into the phone. On one, a mellifluous male voice intones: "If you want to press 1, press 1. If you want to press 2, go ahead and press 2..." The voice continues on, growing

Yakety Yak: How to Talk Back

Some suggested comebacks to unsolicited sales calls, culled from the Anti-Telemarketer Source:

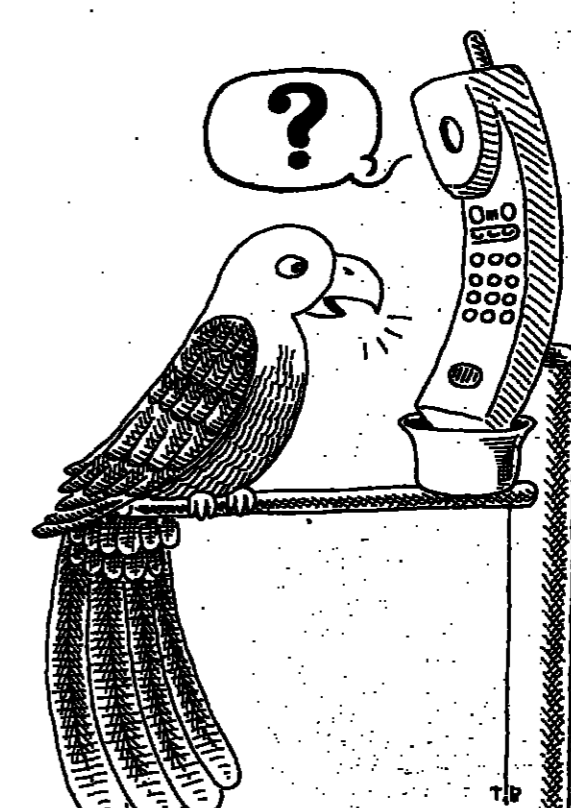
- "First, you have to tell me what kind of underwear you're wearing."
- "I'm sorry, but I'm really busy right now. Give me your home number and I'll call you back later tonight. Hello?"
- "Shh. Wait a minute. I'm here robbing the house. Whoa! I think the owners just got home. Can you hold?"
- "When someone asks whether a spouse is at home: 'Yes, but I never allow her (him) to talk to strangers.'"
- "When someone asks how you are: 'Well, I'm having an existential crisis at the moment. Let me explain.'"
- "You want to sell me insurance? I've been trying to get insurance for years, but nobody will sell me any!"
- "If a salesperson mentions a free cleaning service, whisper, 'Do you get great deals on How about identifiable filters and the OVEN stuff?'"
- "To a phone company solicitor: 'That sounds GREAT! What can you hold for a minute?' (Leave the phone on the hook until he hangs up)."

higher in pitch until it explodes in hysterical laughter.

"Like most people, I truly hate telemarketing calls," Mr. Nestico said, adding with irritation, "Do you know that some of them, if you hang up, actually sell the information that you were home at a certain time?"

Mr. Bulmash of Private Citizen has his own pet peeve: a new technology called predictive dialing that telemarketers use to stack up new calls like an airport landing pattern while salespeople are still on previous calls. If a salesperson can't get to the new call within several seconds of someone answering, the dialer simply terminates it, noting in its data bank that the person was home. This, he said, accounts for those perplexing hang-up calls that seem more and more frequent.

There is also a self-help book, "How to Get Rid of a Telemarketer," published last year by Bad Dog Press of Roseville, Minn. Its "author," Mrs. Millard (June) America, is the persona of a founder of Bad Dog Press, Tim Nyberg. Mr. Nyberg invented the suburban matron for a syndicated radio feature, "Helpful Hints for Happy



Homemakers.

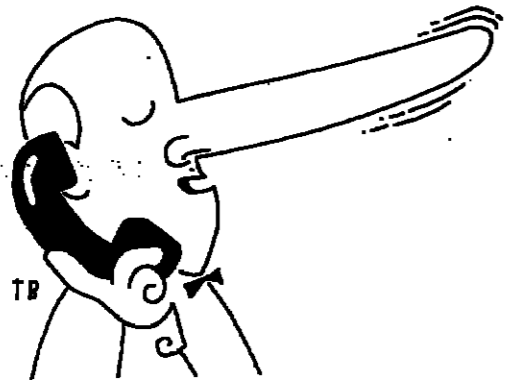
Being well-bred but nobody's fool, June America advocates polite but persuasive action. For example, she says, when the chimney sweep or rug cleaner calls, "break into tears and sob, 'Is this some kind of a joke? My house burned down last night. We lost everything!'"

Another idea is to inform the caller that you have just broken up with a lover and are terribly lonely, sobbing, "I'm so glad you called. Are you an Aries? You sound like an Aries." Or, she adds, you can abruptly ask an unwanted caller, "What causes a hiccup?"

For the musically inclined, Mrs. America suggests learning some show tunes. "Anything by Ethel Merman tends to be the most effective," she declares, "but nothing clears your phone line faster than your own rendition of Whitney Houston's 'I Will Always Love You.'"

If All Else Falls, Sing

Mrs. America works with her own "Independent telecommunications consultant," Bob "Know Your Equipment" Schuck. Mr. Schuck's anti-telemarketing suggestions are more technical, such as deploying a touch-tone phone as an annoying musical instrument. "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is a favorite (634-555-5; 6-6-6. 65-4-5 6-6-6 5-6-6 4-4-4 4-4-4 4-4-4).



مكتبة النهر

Partial view of another page from The Jerusalem Post, showing text like 'The Jerusalem Post', 'Advertisements worse than travel on the Government looking into...', and 'Nonstop new ratings flop. prob, say exe...'

The Nation

Making America Safe for Electronic Commerce

By JOHN M. BRODER

NOT too long ago in America, the chief threats to personal privacy were the snoopy neighbor and the party-line eavesdropper.

Then came J. Edgar Hoover and Richard M. Nixon, using the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service to dig up — and dish out — dirt on private citizens.

The credit card, the supermarket scanner and the toll-free telephone number gave private businesses new avenues to pry into lives and buying habits — where we shop and what we buy, where we eat and what we wear. What was hidden in Queen Victoria's day is laid bare before the all-knowing 800-number order-takers of Victoria's Secret.

Still, all that looks pretty primitive compared to the threats to personal privacy posed by the growth of the electronic marketplace of the Internet.

Advertisers, and worse, can track your travels on the Web. The Government is looking into this.

Today, it's not Ernestine the telephone operator who is the threat. It's "cookies" and "spam."

Most computer users resent receiving "spam" — unsolicited E-mail advertisements — and those who are aware of "cookies" — electronic tags that record what Internet sites a Web browser visits — either want them blocked or want notice before any record of their travels around the Internet is compiled.



Gary Zaichack

Under Surveillance

The Internet and the technology underlying it give companies abilities they never had before to learn intimate details about potential customers. And despite what Internet merchants profess, there is a fundamental difference between virtual shopping on the

Web and browsing in a store.

"If you belong to a frequent buyer club at the bookstore, they probably keep a record of the books you buy," said Christine Varney, a member of the Federal Trade Commission, which held hearings this month on Internet privacy concerns. "But no one follows you around the store and keeps track of what you looked at and how long you looked at it before your bought."

That's what the cookies on a computer's hard drive enable a Web site operator to do. Don't want your employer to know that you took a surreptitious trip to the pornography site "Genital Hospital" on your lunch hour? Too bad. You probably left an electronic cookie crumb on your hard drive.

Those records provide invaluable information for marketers who can use them to pinpoint customers for their products. By

following your Internet "clickstream," they can learn about your hobbies, your shopping preferences, your medical condition, your reading habits, your political predilections.

The White House and the F.T.C., which has authority to police unfair trade practices — including those conducted in cyberspace — are exploring what new laws or regulations will be needed to protect personal privacy while fostering the growth of electronic commerce.

We'll Do It Ourselves

Companies from the Microsoft Corporation to the McGraw-Hill Companies sent representatives to the F.T.C. hearings to pledge their efforts to protect the confidentiality of their customers' transactions. Give us a chance to regulate ourselves, they ar-

With personal data already flying around the Internet, consumers add more with each transaction.

gued, before imposing some restrictive new Government regime.

Gerald Cerasale of the Direct Marketing Association, one of many who spoke on behalf of businesses involved in electronic commerce, said that while the technology is new, privacy issues are no different from those raised by doing business over the telephone or through newspaper want ads.

"The same principles apply to new media as to old media," Mr. Cerasale said. "What's new is the rapidity and the reduction in expense."

Jerry Berman of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a civil liberties group in Washington that focuses on Internet policy, said that technology may be the answer to the problems posed by technology.

A consortium of Internet companies is working on a program for personal computers that would automatically tell Web site operators what personal information the user is willing to share. And such a device is the only solution to a decentralized global computer network that is beyond the reach of any Government to monitor or regulate, Mr. Berman said.

"We have to develop mechanisms that allow consumers to control information about themselves, the content they look at and where they're going on the Net," he said. "That's the privacy equation."

But Ms. Varney of the F.T.C. and her fellow commissioners are not yet convinced of that.

"Three things must exist for electronic commerce to prosper," Ms. Varney said. "Ease, ubiquity and trust. Technology can take care of the first two. But how can consumers be sure that their transactions are secure and private? How do they know when they click on L. L. Bean that they're getting the company and not some impostor?"

"The question we're grappling with," she added, "is whether Government has a role in creating that trust."

Network Farm Teams

The Logic of Losing at All-News TV

By MARK LANDLER

IF a television network starts a 24-hour news channel and nobody watches, does it exist?

That is a question Brian Williams might ponder as he approaches his first anniversary as the anchor of MSNBC's nightly news program. Last month, an average of 27,000 television households tuned in each night to Mr. Williams, whose hour-long show airs at 9 P.M. on NBC's cable news channel. With those ratings, Mr. Williams could get as many viewers if he anchored the local news in Zanesville, Ohio, or Fairbanks, Alaska.

And Mr. Williams, the former White House correspondent of NBC News, is one of the higher-rated stars on MSNBC. All told, the network gets a 24-hour Nielsen rating of 0.1, which represents 24,000 homes. MSNBC's rival, the Fox News Channel, draws just 10,000 homes. Even the granddaddy of the nonstop news business,

Nonstop news is a ratings flop. Hey, no prob, say executives.

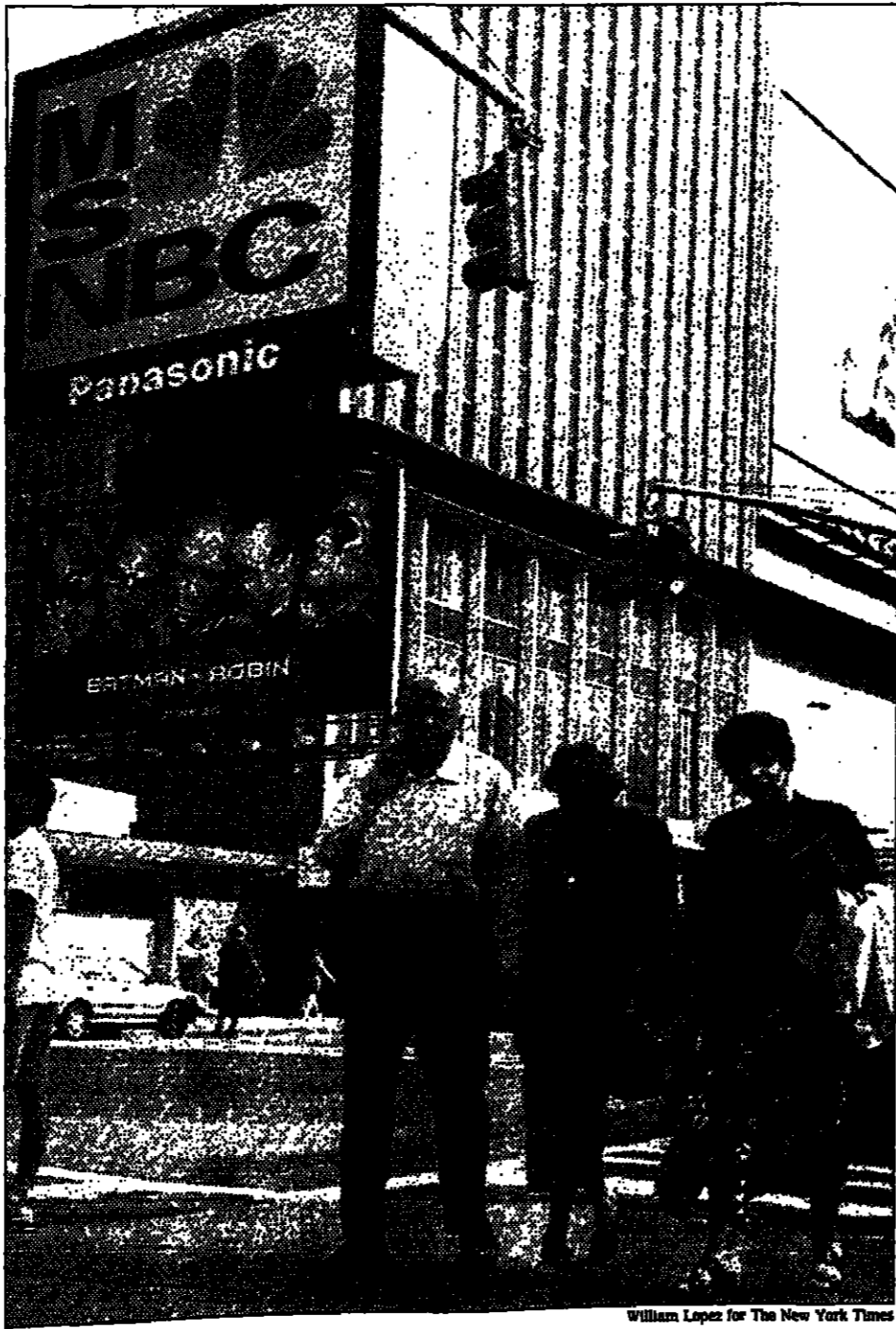
CNN, was watched in an average of only 274,000 homes last month — a 7 percent decline from the previous month.

Those numbers are puny stacked alongside the almost 8 million homes Mr. Williams reached most nights on NBC News. Cable news channels may be a ubiquitous feature of the Information Age, but that does not mean people are actually bothering to watch them.

Some media experts say the problem is demographics. "News has become an old product," said Reese Schonfeld, a veteran cable-television executive who oversaw the launch of CNN in 1980. "All these networks think they're competing with each other, but they're really confronting a generational crisis in the viewership of news."

Or maybe the networks just don't care how many people tune in. True, the Nielsen ratings will always be a way for broadcasters to keep score. But unlike their big network colleagues at the low end of the dial, cable news executives measure success by more than how many eyeballs they capture.

"The goal is a lot more complicated," said Roger Ailes, the chairman of Fox News, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. "This isn't like the old days of TV when people said, 'If I don't break even in a couple of years, I'm



William Lopez for The New York Times

These Times Square pedestrians ignore MSNBC, and NBC doesn't much care.

out of business."

MSNBC, Fox News, CNBC and CNN's financial news channel, CNNn, perform multiple roles for their owners. They are brand extensions, promotional vehicles, farm teams for the mother network, laboratories for high-tech news gathering techniques, even space holders on an ever-expanding television dial. In other words,

they exist partly to prevent the other guy from occupying the slot with his network.

The closest analogy may be consumer marketing: Procter & Gamble floods supermarket shelves with new, improved versions of Tide to prevent Unilever from filling the space with its own detergent.

"The driving force is not so much that there is an opportunity, but that you deny

the opportunity to your competitor," said Andrew Ehrenberg, a professor of marketing at South Bank University in London who has written about television viewing patterns.

MSNBC is a good example. After NBC and Microsoft started the network last year, ABC News opted not to launch its own 24-hour service. In the all-important New York City market, NBC kept Fox off the dial by signing a deal first with the local cable operator, Time Warner.

The marketing value of these channels is hard to calculate, but the networks are milking them for every glimmer of publicity. MSNBC relentlessly plugs both its on-air stars, like Mr. Williams and Jane Pauley, and its corporate connection to Microsoft. NBC, in turn, plugs MSNBC when, for example, it cuts to the junior network's studios for updates during "Nightly News" broadcasts.

Such cross-fertilization helps the parent network: Mr. Williams is getting a valuable dress rehearsal on MSNBC before his expected elevation to Tom Brokaw's perch at NBC News. And the public is being prepared for his ascension.

Status Symbols

News channels also have prestige value because they can be used to create an aura that their corporate owners run vast, state-of-the-art news organizations. A bright red electronic news ticker sets off Fox's street-level studios in midtown Manhattan, while visitors to Times Square can gaze at silent images from MSNBC and CNBC on a mammoth television screen.

Sure, many choose not to. But from a financial perspective, MSNBC's Lilliputian viewership is of scant concern to NBC or its parent, General Electric. The network gets the channel on the cheap by reusing material from NBC News, thereby more than halving the \$250 million in annual expenses MSNBC would otherwise incur. And Microsoft is licking its \$200 million of its own over five years. For Mr. Mupfloh, who does not have a broadcast news division to plunder, the Fox cable channel is a more costly proposition.

For all the compensations, though, lousy ratings still rankle. NBC and Fox are feuding these days over which news channel has the smaller prime-time audience (in April, MSNBC did; in May, it was Fox). And Andrew Lack, the president of NBC News, insists that MSNBC's viewership spiked whenever there was dramatic news, like the verdict in the O. J. Simpson civil trial.

"I don't want to sound naive; we all want audience," Mr. Lack said.

"But what's difficult for some people to understand is that you can have a pretty decent business with a very small audience."

Now, the Enemies Need Each Other

Continued From Page 1

by Congress, any of which could trip up the deal. Here are some examples:

¶The power of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate nicotine and other tobacco ingredients probably needs to be broadened and clarified. The agreement says the agency may order nicotine eliminated from cigarettes after 12 years, but must let Congress review such action. Some anti-smoking groups will press for immediate reductions of nicotine levels, but tobacco companies can fight back with the argument that such controls will lead to a black market in full-nicotine cigarettes.

¶The agreement assumes that Congress will limit lawsuits and damage claims against tobacco companies. Pending class-action lawsuits will be "legislatively settled," and "future class-action lawsuits based on past conduct of the tobacco companies will not be allowed." The tobacco deal could easily become spangled up in debate over a separate bill to limit product-liability lawsuits. Manufacturers and insurers have been seeking such limits for nearly two decades, but consumer groups and plaintiffs' lawyers have resisted them.

¶Federal law must be revised to require tougher warnings on cigarette packs. The tobacco companies' position on this legislation will provide an early test of their alliance with anti-smoking forces.

¶A bill to curb smoking in public places and in most workplaces is to be enacted into law. The bill was written by Representative Henry A. Waxman, Democrat of California, an ardent foe of tobacco. Cigarette companies want to exempt restaurants, casinos and bars, as allowed under the agreement. Anti-smoking forces will press for even stricter local laws.

Some lawmakers want Congress to go further. Senator Kennedy, for example, said the Federal Government should receive compensation for tobacco-related health costs incurred under Medicare and Medicaid, just as 40 states will recoup billions of dollars to offset their Medicaid costs.

Likewise, Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon, said he would try to limit tobacco companies' access to lucrative foreign markets, so they could not "finance the settlement by adding millions of youngsters overseas to tobacco products." Tobacco companies are sure to fight such restrictions.

There is still plenty to fight over.

The World

In Principle, a Case For More 'Sweatshops'

By ALLEN R. MYERSON

FOR more than a century, accounts of sweatshops have provoked outrage. From the works of Charles Dickens and Lincoln Steffens to today's television reports, the image of workers hunched over their machines for meager rewards has been a banner of reform.

Last year, companies like Nike and Wal-Mart and celebrities like Kathie Lee Gifford struggled to defend themselves after reports of the torturous hours and low pay of the workers who produce their upscale footwear or downmarket fashions. Anxious corporate spokesmen sought to explain the plants as a step up for workers in poor countries. A weeping Mrs. Gifford denied knowing about the conditions.

Now some of the nation's leading economists, with solid liberal and academic credentials, are offering a much broader, more principled rationale. Economists like Jeffrey D. Sachs of Harvard and Paul Krugman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology say that low-wage plants making clothing and shoes for foreign markets are an essential first step toward modern prosperity in developing countries.

Mr. Sachs, a leading adviser and shock therapist to nations like Bolivia, Russia and Poland, is now working on the toughest cases of all, the economies of sub-Saharan Africa. He is just back from Malawi, where malaria afflicts almost all its 13 million people and AIDS affects 1 in 10; the lake that provided much of the country's nourishment is fished out.

When asked during a recent Harvard panel discussion whether there were too many sweatshops in such places, Mr. Sachs answered facetiously. "My concern is not that there are too many sweatshops but that there are too few," he said.

Mr. Sachs, who has visited low-wage factories around the world, is opposed to child or prisoner labor and other outright abuses. But many nations, he says, have no better hope than plants paying mere subsistence wages. "Those are precisely the jobs that were the steppingstone for Singapore and Hong Kong," he said, "and those are the jobs that have to come to Africa to get them out of their backbreaking rural poverty."

Rising Stakes

The stakes in the battle over sweatshops are high and rising. Clinton Administration officials say commerce with the major developing nations like China, Indonesia and Mexico is crucial for America's own continued prosperity. Corporate America's manufacturing investments in developing nations more than tripled in 15 years to \$56 billion in 1995 — not including the vast numbers of plants there that contract with American companies.

In matters of trade and commerce, economists like Mr. Sachs, who has also worked with several Government agencies, are influential. A consensus among economists helped persuade President Clinton, who had campaigned against President Bush's plan of lowered restric-

tions, to ram global and North American trade pacts through Congress.

Paradoxically, economists' support of sweatshops represents a sort of optimism. Until the mid-1980's, few thought that third world nations could graduate to first world status in a lifetime, if ever. "When I went to graduate school in the early to mid-1970's," Mr. Krugman said, "it looked like being a developed country was really a closed club." Only Japan had made a convincing jump within the past century.

Those economists who believed that developing nations could advance often prescribed self-reliance and socialism, warning against foreign investment as a form of imperialism. Advanced nations invested in the developing world largely to extract oil, coffee, bananas and other resources but created few new jobs or industries. Developing nations, trying to lessen their reliance on manufactured imports, tried to bolster domestic industries for the home market. But these protected businesses were often inefficient and the local markets too small to sustain them.

From Wigs to Cars

Then the Four Tigers — Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan — began to roar. They made apparel, toys, shoes and, at least in South Korea's case, wigs and false teeth, mostly for export. Within a generation, their national incomes climbed from about 10 percent to 40 percent of American incomes. Singapore welcomed foreign plant owners while South Korea shunned them, building industrial conglomerates of its own. But the first stage of development had one constant. "It's always sweatshops," Mr. Krugman said.

These same nations now export cars and computers, and the economists have revised their views of sweatshops. "The overwhelming mainstream view among economists is that the growth of this kind of employment is tremendous good news for the world's poor," Mr. Krugman said.

Unlike the corporate apologists, economists make no attempt to prettify the sweatshop picture. Mr. Krugman, who writes a column for Slate magazine called "The Dismal Scientist," describes sweatshop owners as "soulless multinationals and rapacious local entrepreneurs, whose only concern was to take advantage of the profit opportunities offered by cheap labor." But even in a nation as corrupt as Indonesia, he says, industrialization has reduced the portion of malnourished children from more than half in 1975 to a third today.

In judging the issue of child labor also, Mr. Krugman is a pragmatist, asking what else is available. It often isn't education. In India, for example, destitute parents sometimes sell their children to Persian Gulf begging syndicates whose bosses mutilate them for a higher take, he says. "If that is the alternative, it is not so easy to say that children should not be working in factories," Mr. Krugman said.

Not that most economists argue for sweatshops at home. The United States, they say, can afford to set much higher labor standards than poor countries — though Europe's are so high, some say, that high unemployment results.



Salvadorans at work. Some economists think low wage factory labor can help poor countries advance.

Labor leaders and politicians who challenge sweatshops abroad say that they harm American workers as well, stealing jobs and lowering wages — a point that some economists dispute. "It is especially galling when American workers lose jobs to places where workers are really being exploited," said Mark Levinson, chief economist at the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, who argues for trade sanctions to enforce global labor rules.

Yet when corporations voluntarily cut their ties to sweatshops, the victims can be the very same people sweatshop opponents say they want to help. In Honduras, where the legal working age is 14, girls toiled 75 hours a

week for the 31-cent hourly minimum to make the Kathie Lee Gifford clothing line for Wal-Mart. When Wal-Mart canceled its contract, the girls lost their jobs and blamed Mrs. Gifford.

No Jobs in Practice

Mr. Krugman blames American self-righteousness, or guilt over Indonesian women and children sewing sneakers at 60 cents an hour. "A policy of good jobs in principle, but no jobs in practice, might assuage our consciences," he said, "but it is no favor to its alleged beneficiaries."

War in Cambodia Goes On (and On)

Continued From Page 1

an embittered United States, which had dropped bombs all over Indochina, denied Hanoi recognition and investment dollars for nearly 20 years after the fall of Saigon.

American capital and development — including roads that the Vietnamese can only dream of — rained on Thailand during the war. United States troops and planes found a home and a lot of good times. Thais, until they belatedly concluded that an American military presence would not serve their regional interests, prospered by the arrangement.

Missed Opportunity

The Thai economy, however troubled, now dominates Laos, which America bombed to box in the Vietnamese, and where it armed anti-communist hill people. Many Hmong were abandoned by their American paymasters and left in refugee camps in Thailand. Laos, always fragile, has yet to recover from its role as ideological battleground.

But it is in Cambodia that the Vietnam War itself seems never to have ended. Cambodia was everybody's opportunity. The Vietnamese used it as a sanctuary for North Vietnamese troops and Viet Cong while talking of a federation of Indochinese states (dragging in the hapless Lao) that sounded very similar to what the French had planned half a century earlier. The communists in Beijing and Hanoi courted Cambodia's radical leftist movement, which Prince Norodom Sihanouk had first called, disdainfully, the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge had, paradoxically, picked up their communist education in France. The Prince, who found himself in opposition in the 1970's, flirted with them enough to give Pol Pot credence with many Cambodians and served briefly and disastrously as their figurehead when they took power in 1975.

By then the United States had waded clumsily into Cambodia to support the anti-communist Lon Nol Government that had overthrown Prince Sihanouk's original regime in March 1970. Secret American bombing raids into Cambodian territory in violation of Congressional restrictions, com-

pounded by an American-South Vietnamese invasion, helped the Khmer Rouge recruit new followers, although many Cambodians say now that the raids were probably not the most critical factor in Pol Pot's rise to power, given the support he got from the Vietnamese and China — and from Norodom Sihanouk.

The fall of Phnom Penh to the Khmer Rouge in 1975, days ahead of the fall of Saigon, did not end American, Chinese or Vietnamese involvement in Cambodia. The war soon went on by proxy, with a part of the Khmer Rouge movement drawing closer to Vietnam as another faction threatened Hanoi's interests. In December 1978, Vietnam invaded, setting up a cooperative government the next month under Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge — who is today the country's Second Prime Minister. China was furious and marched over the border into Vietnam to teach the

American bombs were not the only factor in Pol Pot's rise to power.

Vietnamese lesson. The Vietnamese taught them instead.

When the defeated Khmer Rouge fled toward the Thai frontier, they were drawn into an unholy alliance with the Cambodian royalists and a small, more democratic and moderate faction under Son Sann. China and the United States were among those who gave the alliance diplomatic and material support. Eager to rid Cambodia of the Vietnamese, Beijing and Washington, strongly supported by other Southeast Asian nations ready to seize economic opportunities in Indochina, forced Hanoi's withdrawal and engineered a peace treaty that put all factions back in play in Phnom Penh in 1992.

Until recently, it appeared that the Vietnam War had finally ended in Cambodia. Last week, the Cambodians struck up the music, and a new game of musical chairs began.

Too Little? Too Late?

The Foreign Aid Gamble in Africa

By RAYMOND BONNER

IT was a high-powered team that President Clinton sent to meet with the new Government here: the United States representative to the United Nations, Bill Richardson; an assistant secretary of State; an admiral; a senior member of the National Security Council; a senior spy, a member of Congress.

But "the center of attraction," as Mr. Richardson said in introducing the delegation to Congolese officials, was the man from the Agency for International Development, Richard McCall. "He has the money," Mr. Richardson said of Mr. McCall, third in command at the agency that doles out American largesse.

All the new Congolese President, Laurent Kabila, has to do to get the money is become a democrat and free-market capitalist. Reinforcing that message, Commerce and Treasury officials were along, dangling financial lures. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were close behind.

"Bribery," some critics sneer, but diplomats prefer to call offers of aid "carrots" — as opposed to "sticks," the economic sanctions and public condemnations of human rights abuses that have been applied in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Cuba and Burma. Whatever the label, why are American taxpayers being asked to dump millions of dollars into Congo, the giant Central African country that was so recently Zaire?

During the cold war, Washington opened the vault to the good, the bad and the ugly, just to keep them on America's side. Zaire's former President for life, Mobutu Sese Seko, was one dictator who qualified. But these days it is hard to find a geopolitical interest at stake in Congo.

Diplomats, Not Missionaries

It could be argued that Washington and the West have a moral obligation, after catering to Mr. Mobutu while he looted Zaire and drove its populace into poverty. There are humanitarian impulses, to save children from malnutrition, to put books in schools and medicines in hospitals. But as Henry Kissinger said, the conduct of foreign policy is not missionary work.

There is, however, another reason for extending a hand to the leaders of Africa's third largest country: the self-interest of avoiding another international disaster. "If they fail, this country will explode," said Frederick Racke, the Dutch ambassador here. "We will have another Yugoslavia, on a continental scale."

Such an apocalyptic view cannot be dismissed out of hand — Congo has some 200 ethnic groups, and it borders nine other countries. But will financial help from the West save Congo from



In his first speech as President, Laurent Kabila dismissed calls for quick elections in Congo

becoming another Rwanda, where the horrors ultimately impelled Washington to act?

Not in the view of the Cato Institute. "Foreign aid" has not delivered self-sustaining economic growth or prevented the collapse of numerous poor societies into chaos over the past five decades," said Doug Bandow, a senior fellow at the research organization in Washington and author of a report, "Help or Hindrance: Can Foreign Aid Prevent International Crises?"

He cited \$1.8 billion in aid to Sierra Leone, \$3.1 billion to Haiti, \$6.2 billion to Somalia — all of which descended into civil disorder.

Aid advocates say it would be just as illogical to look at the far longer list of aid recipients that have not imploded and to conclude that aid was the reason. Policymakers also argue that without aid, Washington loses influence and leverage. The argument has merit, but history suggests both carrots and sticks are needed, and Washington has been reluctant to wield the latter.

A few years ago an outspoken American Ambassador, Smith Hempstone, publicly criticized Kenya every time it shut down a newspaper or jailed a dissident. It was rare conduct for an ambassador, not appreciated in Nairobi (or, for that matter, in the State Department), but it nudged Kenya's president, Daniel Arap Moi, closer to democracy than he wanted to go.

Diplomats say Mr. Kabila will also have to be prodded. There is nothing in his background to suggest that he will be a democrat, though some men around him have democratic desires.

Responding to the lure of aid, Mr. Kabila assured Mr. Richardson that he would allow a U.N. team to investigate whether his forces murdered Hutu refugees, and that he would let relief workers reach the surviving refugees.

Assurances, of a Kind

But he conditioned the investigation on replacing the U.N. team's head, refused to say whether anyone would be punished if massacres were proven and refused ask his troops to respect relief workers. This brought criticism from those workers and human rights groups, who wished that the United States had been tougher.

The Clinton Administration says that any aid will depend on Mr. Kabila achieving political and economic reforms. But Congo needs immediate help, to revive the country and to enable the Government to pay civil servants and soldiers before they resort to old habits of demanding bribes and stealing. If the West acts too soon, Mr. Kabila may find it easy to ignore the calls for reform. If the West waits to see what he will do, it may be too late to help him.

ECONOMY

The Heir is Clearly Apparent at Comcast Corp.

By GERALDINE FABRIKANT

RALPH ROBERTS, the dapper 77-year-old founder of the Comcast Corporation, loves to follow the ups and downs of other family businesses and try to figure out what makes some thrive and others implode.

In Comcast, based in Philadelphia, is worth at least \$470 million without a premium, and once the patriarch and his wife pass from the scene, there is no guarantee the heirs won't hurl themselves into a fierce battle for the spoils.

But the elder Mr. Roberts has probably come as close as any company founder can to setting the stage for an orderly succession. His plan is to turn over the votes to Brian but make sure to divide the financial pie fairly among all the offspring.

Mr. Roberts has reason to track the way family-run companies pass the baton from one generation to the next. He has five children, aged 36 to 47. Only his fourth child, Brian, is at Comcast, the nation's fourth-largest cable television operator with \$4 billion in revenue last year.

And experts say the odds of a successful transition are greater at Comcast than at most family businesses. Mr. Roberts has by all accounts done a skillful job of grooming Brian to fill his shoes so that he is both respected by his peers and supported by his siblings.

That was evident earlier this month when Brian Roberts and the founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates, struck a deal in which Microsoft agreed to pay \$1 billion for an 11.5 percent stake in Comcast.

Even as he is promoting his son, the elder Mr. Roberts is looking after the financial interests of his other children. He never pressured any of them to join the family company — and none besides Brian showed any interest in doing so.

And all of them are rich. The elder Mr. Roberts has made sure that each of Brian's siblings will retain an economic stake in Comcast equal their brother's. The five children and their parents jointly own the holding company that owns Comcast's supervising shares.



Comcast chairman Ralph Roberts and son Brian, who will succeed him.

until 4 A.M. in the lawyers' offices anymore. Now Brian typically takes the lead.

To be sure, he adds, "At an important fork in the road, Brian will go off to his father" to get the older man's stamp of approval.

The company is clearly planning for the day that Ralph Roberts will no longer be running the show. Over the last five years, it has brought in a younger team of senior executives to work with Brian, including the executive vice president, Larry Smith, 49, the senior treasurer, John Alchin, 48, and the president of the cable division, Tom Baxter, 50.

The son, meanwhile, remains an understudy of the father — and the father is impressing upon the son the need to play hardball when the occasion demands it.

In 1994, for example, Ralph Roberts scuttled a bid by Barry Diller, then the chairman of QVC, the home-shopping cable channel, to acquire CBS. The deal would have relegated Comcast, the biggest QVC shareholder, to be a minor, and passive, investor in CBS, and the elder Mr. Roberts wanted no part of that.

The memory of the fiasco still rankles Mr. Diller. "Ralph is tough," he says ruefully. "Under that bow tie and courtly manner beats the heart of one tough man. He is steel."

Ralph Roberts acknowledges that he was the heavy. "I was probably the one to pull the curtain," he said. "Barry is very charismatic and hypnotic, but we were not going to lose our business and become a nonvoting stockholder of CBS to provide Barry with an entree to CBS."

Once the elder Mr. Roberts is out of the picture at Comcast, Wall Street will be watching closely to see whether the son can be as tough and decisive as his father. It is a skill that Brian Roberts knows he has yet to prove and that is rare among the sons of powerful men, who are often overwhelmed by their fathers.

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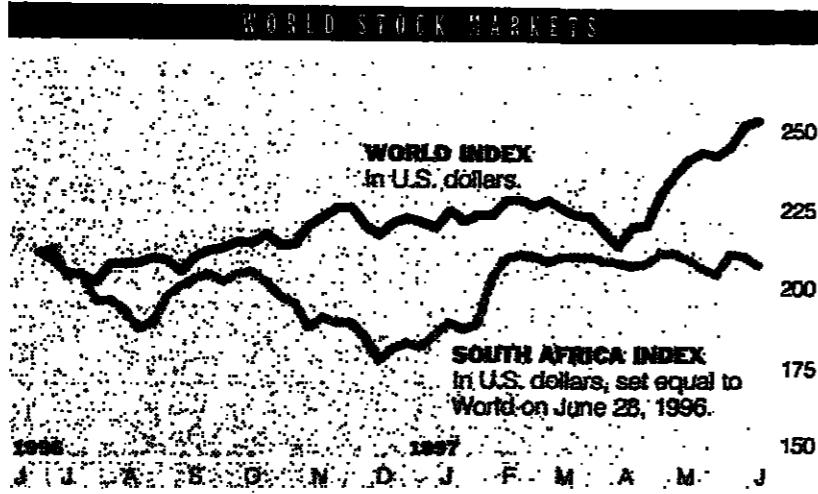
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Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Table with columns for Country, Index, Week % Chg., Rank, YTD % Chg., Rank, Dividend Yield, Index, and YTD % Chg. It lists performance for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and United States.

Table titled 'COMPOSITE INDICES' with columns for Index, Week % Chg., Rank, YTD % Chg., Rank, and YTD % Chg. It shows performance for Europe, Pacific Basin, Europe/Pacific, and World.

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

Table titled 'CURRENTS' showing exchange rates for Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar, German marks to the U.S. dollar, Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar, and U.S. dollars to the British pound.

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

The children — the family — have had continual discussions, he said during an interview in which he was joined by Brian, dressed like his father in a gray suit, black loafers, a white button-down shirt and red tie.

A few weeks ago, the five Roberts children — leaving behind both mates and children — spent a day with their parents for freewheeling talks on everything from personal concerns to financial matters.

Family-business experts say the family is something of an anomaly in devising a smooth transfer between generations. "This is a relatively unusual situation," said Leon Danco, president of the Center for Family Studies. "The father is open. Many entrepreneurs are very secretive. It is a sign of a man who has given considerable thought to the future and has spoken to his other children. What is more common is that this kind of agreement does not happen. To make it work, you have to have motivated, competent successors as well as accommodating heirs. If a family has to go to law court to determine what is fair, the issue is what's the law, not what is fair."

It helps, of course, that only one of the children desperately wanted to follow in Dad's footsteps. "I think we have known that Brian would take over the company since he was about 8 years old," said Julian Brodsky, Comcast's vice chairman and Mr. Roberts's alter ego for the last 34 years.

When Brian was 8, Comcast was a fledgling cable operator that Ralph Roberts had founded after jumping in and out of a handful of other businesses. His main goal at the time was to make a lot of money. He had been born into an affluent home, the son of the owner of a small drugstore chain in Westchester County, N.Y. For a time, the family even had a chauffeur. But during the Depression, Mr. Roberts recalled, "my father died, and we lost all our money. People who never had a financial problem in their lives can never understand what terror there is in that."

He credits his mother for pulling the family through hard times. "She had a lot of friends, and she decided to go into the insurance business, and everybody she knew bought a policy from her the first year to keep us going," he said. "We moved into an apartment with my aunt in Philadelphia. I went to the University of Pennsylvania. I lived at home." To support himself at college, he took on a variety of odd jobs, including selling milk.

Once Mr. Roberts began building Comcast, Brian, alone of his brood, frequented the company premises. Luckily, the youngster had business

smarts as well as enthusiasm. If he hadn't, his father confesses, "I probably would have sold the company."

That would have been a wrenching decision, as it almost invariably is for the founder of a company. "There is something about wanting to pass things on," he said. "It is the same thing as giving birth — or having another generation. But if Brian were not up to it, he would not have stood a chance because you can't sacrifice all the people in the place for a poor manager."

Or an arrogant one. "The most dangerous thing is a son or daughter coming into a business where they think they get special treatment," Mr. Roberts said. "They drag the business down because it kills the morale of everybody in the company."

After Brian received an undergraduate business degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1981, Ralph Roberts tried to steer him to another company, where he would have to fight his own battles. But the son wanted to stay in the family business, so Mr. Roberts started him off in the trenches, stringing cable in New Kensington, Pa. "We were lucky because the cable business was growing and growing," Mr. Roberts recalled. There was plenty of room to give the son a shot.

But as Brian Roberts worked his way up the ladder, the halcyon 1980's came to an end. The 1990's have been far tougher, as regulation and skepticism about the industry's future in the face of rival technologies hurt cable stocks. Like many other cable companies, Comcast peaked in late 1993, at \$28.17 a share. It bottomed out at \$16.375 last March and has recovered slightly, closing at \$21.375 on Friday on Nasdaq.

ALL along, however, Mr. Roberts has drawn his son closer to the center of action inside Comcast and pushed him into the spotlight outside the company. "I thought if he was so young, you really have to be helped to be promoted to make it appear that you really are your own person," the elder Mr. Roberts recalled. "Every chance I get I step back and say, 'Here is Brian.' I didn't want it to appear that he was just his father's son."

For example, it was Brian Roberts who was on the board of Turner Broadcasting before Time Warner bought it in 1996, and it was Brian who was president of the National Cable Television Association's board in 1995.

Promoting an heir apparent may have been easier for the elder Mr. Roberts than for other entrepreneurs. Investors who know him say he always prefers to remain in the background and let others like

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"Deals like Microsoft and QVC would not have happened without Brian," said Steven Rattner, deputy chief executive of Lazard Frères & Company, who has worked with the family for about a decade. "Ralph and Julian have been intimately involved, but Ralph doesn't sit there

June 16-20: Tobacco Stocks Fall on News of \$360 Billion Settlement, but Dow Still Hits a High

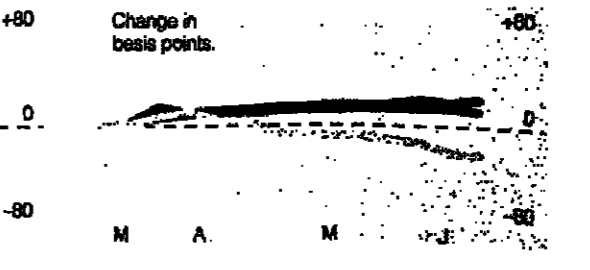
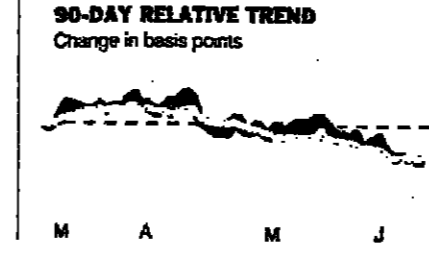
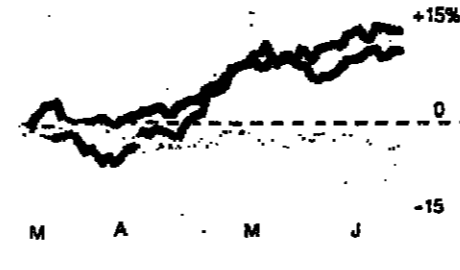
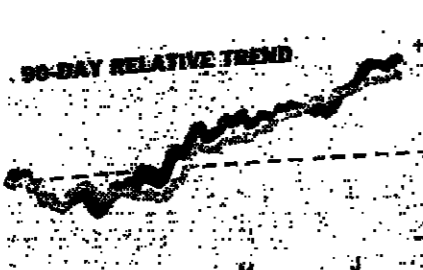
Table titled 'PRICES' showing domestic equities performance: Broad market S.&P. 500 index (Up 0.61%), Blue chips (Up 0.19%), Small capitalization (Up 0.39%), and Russell 2000 index.

Table titled 'DOMESTIC BONDS' showing Treasury bonds (Up 0.44%), Municipal bonds (Up 0.23%), Corporates (Up 0.50%), and Merrill Lynch Master Index.

Table titled 'AROUND THE WORLD' showing European stocks (Down 0.12%), Asian stocks (Up 1.10%), and Gold (Down 1.08%).

Table titled 'YIELDS' showing Long bonds (6.66%), 2-year Treasuries (5.99%), and Municipal bonds (5.58%).

Table titled 'OTHER INVESTMENTS' showing Money market funds (5.03%), Bank C.D.'s (5.22%), and Stocks (1.71%).



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datstream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

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No Hot Air on Global Warming

Five years ago, more than 100 world leaders came together for the first international Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, leaving a diaphanous trail of promises to clean the earth's atmosphere...

and 6.3 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. Temperature changes in the middle level of that scale could cause a 20-inch rise in sea levels that would flood coastal lowlands and tropical islands...

Remedies and Costs. About one-third of the atmosphere's greenhouse gases is produced by electric power plants, one-third by cars and trucks and one-third by other commercial enterprises and ordinary households.

Some industrial spokesmen have said that this is a recipe for national bankruptcy. Earlier this year, however, about 2,000 economists signed a statement asserting that the benefits of action on climate change outweighed the costs...

Since a carbon tax is unlikely to fly in Congress, both the economists and the study suggested a more politically palatable option that the Administration has generally embraced - an international emissions-trading scheme that would set a global ceiling on emissions and give each country a national ceiling.

This mechanism is not without flaws, and it remains to be seen whether everyone can agree on such a complicated scheme before Kyoto. But in the long run Mr. Clinton's greatest problem may be to convince Congress, which must ratify whatever emerges from Kyoto, to take the issue of global warming as seriously as the scientists do.

President Clinton cannot avoid addressing that issue when he speaks on Thursday. With only 4 percent of the world's population, the United States produces more than a fifth of the "greenhouse gases" like carbon dioxide that are contributing to a gradual and potentially disruptive warming of the earth's surface.

The Administration has already conceded that the voluntary approach endorsed in Rio is not working and that it will accept "binding" enforceable targets on greenhouse emissions if other industrialized nations go along.

The President has one important thing going for him. There is a far broader scientific consensus on global warming than there was in Rio five years ago and there are many more creative ideas about how to address it.

The Science. One reason why the industrialized nations opted for voluntary targets in Rio was that mainstream scientists simply could not agree whether man-made emissions had contributed to the small rise in global temperatures that began late in the 19th century.

Unless the current rates of combustion of carbon-based fuels - coal, gas, oil - could be reduced, they warned, temperatures would rise between 1.8

Prying Open Family Court

"The Family Court is open to the public." That is the first sentence in Chief Judge Judith Kaye's new rules for New York State's Family Court.

The Family Court handles some of the court system's most wrenching and controversial cases, ranging from child abuse and custody disputes in messy divorces to domestic violence and violent crimes committed by juveniles.

The brief set of rules announced by Judge Kaye last week are the latest in a series of initiatives to improve the accessibility, accountability and effec-

tiveness of the Family Court. In April, Judge Kaye unveiled a plan to begin evening sessions of the court and to open satellite offices to make it easier and more convenient to obtain a court order of protection.

The goal here is change the court's traditional culture of secrecy and get it to pay attention to the presumption in existing law that hearings and other proceedings ought to be open.

But they must now make these decisions on a case-by-case basis and state their reasons publicly. This means they will have to think harder before shutting out the public and press.

Early Bird

When the early bird sings at 4 A.M., the only other sound is the dogs running out their dreams at the foot of the bed. Somewhere on the Atlantic the sun is already rising, but in the Berkshires the sky at that hour is no brighter than tarnished silver.

It is 44 degrees outside. The grass is wet with dew. Breath hangs in the air almost as quietly as Jupiter in the southern sky.

the trees full of their own noises by afternoon, but for now their stillness enlarges the scale on which this solo bird performs.

Winter mornings hinge on just a change in light without much change in sound. But a summer morning when the sky first glows is a cathedral of anticipation.

The canopy of trees is answered by the understory, and the tall grasses in the eastern field fill with bird-song. To one by one, the birds add depth to the horizon, until at last there is room for the sun to rise.

Don't View Vietnam Through a Political Prism

To the Editor:
Michael Lind's June 19 Op-Ed article on Vietnam and its lessons contains the all-too-typical flaw of attempting to view a complex episode of history in simple bipolar categories of liberal versus conservative.

Those of us who protested that war more than 30 years ago knew even then that this simplistic approach to the principles of foreign policy was wrong.

While Mr. Lind is correct that foreign policy must always remain in the hands of the Government and not the military, he fails to articulate the interests or values that should guide that policy.

Would there have been a Vietnam War if this country had supported the principle of self-determination, first in 1945 and then in 1956 when Ho Chi Minh was poised to become the president of a unified and maybe even a Socialist Vietnam?

Communism Thwarted
To the Editor:
Michael Lind's retrospective, "Back to Vietnam, and Its Myths" (Op-Ed, June 19), like other recent analyses, fails to cite one important issue.

In the overall scheme of the cold war, the Vietnam War was a substantial factor in the fall of worldwide Communism. Communist expansion in Southeast Asia was thwarted.

President Richard Nixon was able to widen the split between China and the Soviet Union, a ploy that did much to reduce the threat of Communist hegemony in both Eastern Europe and Asia.

In the scheme of things, those Americans who died in Vietnam contributed to the demise of the Soviet Union.

Big-Town America
To the Editor:
I shall forever keep in my wallet a clipping of "Guess What City Looks Like America" (Week in Review, June 15), ready to show inhabitants of my small hometown in Oregon when I visit.

Their town is gutted; gone are the hardware stores, bakeries, diners, grocery stores and pharmacies. They need to drive miles to strip malls. They cannot remember an era when you could have your shoes spit-shined on the sidewalk, or tip your hat to virtually every person on the street.

Deaf Ears in Ireland
To the Editor:
Your call for an end to the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland (editorial, June 18) is welcome. Their use has been condemned by the European Parliament, Physicians for Social Responsibility and other groups.

However, your call for Britain to turn a deaf ear to Sinn Fein after the deaths of two Protestant police officers undermines the peace process.

College Entry Shouldn't Depend on Test Scores
To the Editor:
You may be surprised to learn that the president of the world's largest educational testing organization agrees with President Clinton's assertion, in his June 14 commencement address at the University of California, that we must not use college admission test scores as the yardstick of individual merit.

There are those who insist that test scores can be used alone as a color-blind way to rank people from "most qualified" to "least qualified." That is a misrepresentation of what tests can and cannot do.

ures of qualification; no single measure can stand alone. Standardized tests can be made fair, but they provide information limited to particular skills and subject matter.

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons.

Hanoi Changed Course

To the Editor:
It is worth recalling, in connection with Michael Lind's "Back to Vietnam, and Its Myths" (Op-Ed, June 19), that a beginning had been made in 1962, based on the successful British experience in Malaya, with a program ("strategic hamlets") to separate the Vietcong from their sources of supplies and recruits.

Hanoi, faced with the choice of abandoning its campaign to unify Vietnam under Communist rule or switching from guerrilla war to conventional war, chose the latter.

war, however, had largely disappeared by the time of the hard-fought offensive of 1972, and was nonexistent at the time of the 1975 sweep to victory.

The irony is that Hanoi's post-1965 strategy went against every doctrine of guerrilla war, including the North Vietnamese strategist Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap's "people's war."

North Vietnam's Prime Minister, Pham Van Dong, himself had rejected the idea of annexing the South by military conquest when he told Harrison Salisbury on Jan. 2, 1967.

Too Rich for Medicare, O.K. for Rent Control
To the Editor:
I am confused! The Senate Finance Committee has approved an increase in the Medicare deductible of the elderly with incomes above \$50,000 (front page, June 19).

My befuddlement arises from the use of the term "affluent" to describe these people, while last week I was regaled with arguments and editorials stating the necessity of protecting "middle-class" people with incomes of \$175,000 from rent destabilization.

New Education Czars?
To the Editor:
Newt Gingrich and Ward Connerly ("Facé the Failure of Racial Preferences," Op-Ed, June 15) ridicule the District of Columbia school system. Since Congress ultimately controls the District's budget, I propose that it seize control of its schools and make Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Connerly the education czars.

Subsidizing the Senate
To the Editor:
When senators get sick, they have the privilege of seeing physicians at Walter Reed Army Medical Center at no cost, so they are not affected personally by the proposed increased Medicare deductible pay-

Three-Fifths Clause Didn't Define Humanness
To the Editor:
Russell Baker's June 17 column promulgates a popular misconception regarding the three-fifths clause arising out of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia, where the United States Constitution was designed.

Insulin's Discovery
To the Editor:
Karl E. Meyer, in "The Genius of Scotland" (Editorial Notebook, June 15), furthers a timeworn injustice in crediting John Macleod with the discovery of insulin.

As with so many things political, the North and the South compromised by counting each white person as one human being and each slave as three-fifths of a human being for purposes of House seat apportionment as well as for state tax contributions to the Federal Treasury.

Insulin was actually discovered by Frederick Banting, a young surgeon, and his assistant Charles Best, a medical student. Dr. Macleod, the Scottish-born chairman of the physiology department at the University of Toronto, merely gave Banting laboratory space in the summer of 1921 and then shared credit (and the Nobel Prize) with Banting when the validity of the discovery became apparent.

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Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Politics in Israel

TEL AVIV You think Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu don't trust each other? You think Ehud Barak, the opposition Labor Party's new top man, and "Bibi" don't trust each other?

Those fierce feelings are as nothing compared with the depth of distrust felt for one another by Bibi and almost all the longtime leaders of his own right-wing coalition.

'Out the ground-floor window.'

Benny Begin, high-principled son of Menachem Begin, bailed out with a blast after the Hebron partial pull-out. Moshe Arens, Bibi's longtime mentor who was frozen out the minute Bibi gained power, calls the trust factor his former protégé's "character flaw."

Last week, the internecine warfare escalated with the induced resignation of Finance Minister Dan Meridor, a moderate Likudnik "prince" respected by intellectuals and the media, who had shown lukewarm support for Bibi during the ordeal of the "Bar-On affair."

After a year of wincing whenever he heard the Prime Minister say, in English, "How can we control the spin?" Meridor was glad to be able to erase his wimpy reputation with a gutsy, dramatic departure. As Arik Sharon neatly put it, "Dan leaped out of a ground-floor window."

Netanyahu surely knows that Sharon trusts him as little as Meridor does. Exactly a year ago, after Sharon's help with the religious vote helped put him in office, Bibi tried to double-cross Arik with a minor post, and then had to create a ministry when friends of the white-haired lion of Likud threatened a revolt.

But now Bibi needs Arik's far-right influence again, and has — at this writing — slotted him into Meridor's empty Finance post. Clever maneuver: Out goes the irritating centrist on a policy pretext, and into that top slot goes the hard-liner whose straight talk is trusted by rabbis and Arabs.

Yet maybe not so clever. The waltzing-out of Meridor upset the one Cabinet member Bibi cannot afford to lose: Natan Sharansky, whose party of immigrants has seven votes in the Knesset. Should the short, balding former Soviet dissident decide to take a walk, Bibi's Government would fall.

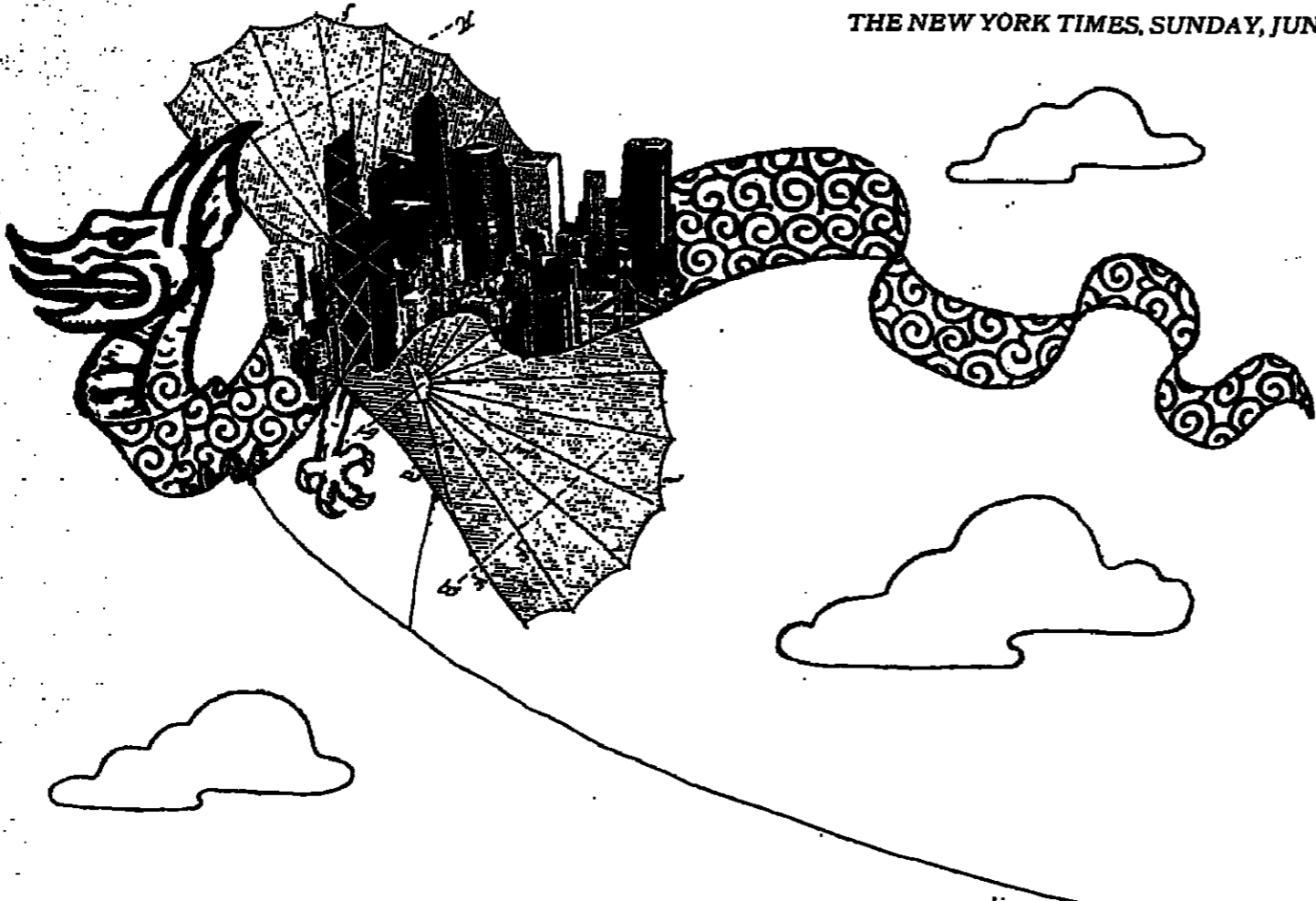
And Sharansky is plenty sore. Not only were Bibi's promises to his constituents broken, but the promise to clear appointments — such as ambassador to Russia — through a Meridor-Sharansky filter was ignored. He has one foot out the door: "Bibi takes us for granted. Because I am his friend, because I share his political vision, immigrants have to suffer?"

Why have I taken the American reader — interested mainly in Israel's "peace process" — through the delicious, back-biting minutiae of Israeli right-wing politics?

My purpose is to illustrate what happens when one voter-friendly political leader dares to try and turn a parliamentary system, built on the British model, toward a presidential system adapted from the American constitutional model.

Combined with a turn from Israel's semi-socialism, that's a wrenching systemic change. People who deride his personal ambition do not realize how ambitious is his goal. Bibi's animus toward the establishment that launched him is a weakness. His relish in defeating it in detail is self-indulgent, the mark of the sore winner. Because his manipulation is so transparent, his spinning falls short of deft democratic deviousness.

He may fail. Israelis may decide that a greater concentration of executive power and diminution of splinter-party power is not right for them. Or they may be waiting for a leader who inspires more trust. But if Netanyahu fails in this arena, "he fails while daring greatly," in Theodore Roosevelt's words, and adversaries foreign and domestic will never think of him as one of "those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."



Hong Kong and False Alarms

By Chas. W. Freeman Jr.

WASHINGTON Back in 1984, when Britain agreed to return Hong Kong to China in 1997 and China agreed to keep it as "50 years at least," Deng Xiaoping remarked that Hong Kong would not change much over that period but China would. Eventually, China would become so much like Hong Kong, he implied, that there would be no significant difference between the two.

The Hong Kong Deng had in mind was economically libertarian but politically authoritarian. By 1984, Britons had given their little part of China for more than 140 years. To that point, they had shown no inclination to temper their benevolent autocracy by letting Hong Kong Chinese have a role in the politics of the place.

The colony's governor appointed the members of Hong Kong's Legislative Council, insisted on his right to approve public gatherings, scrutinized the local press for evidence of lese-majesté, and sometimes threw editors in jail for objecting to British rule.

As 1997 approached, however, Britain had a change of heart about the merits of democracy in Hong Kong. British negotiators convinced Beijing that, although Britain had not done so, China should institute a significant degree of democracy there. In 1989, Beijing and London solemnly agreed that, within a year of the July 1 transfer, Hong Kong's people would for the first time elect their Legislative Council.

But Chris Patten, the last British Governor, decided to jump the gun by staging elections in Hong Kong in 1995, two years before the July 1, 1997, handover. However poorly the elections squared with Britain's agreement with China, the action

Chas. W. Freeman Jr. was Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs in 1993 and 1994.

was understandable, given the apprehensions raised by China's ruthless suppression of the peaceful uprising in Tiananmen in 1989.

The Chinese insist that, notwithstanding what they regard as British perfidy, they will honor their word and sponsor new elections next year. Most people in Hong Kong clearly believe them. The stock and real estate markets there are booming. Still, Britain's decision to alter the rules unilaterally could be used by Beijing to justify its own deviations from the Sino-British accords after it reasserts its sovereignty over Hong Kong.

Had Governor Patten stuck to the letter and spirit of the accords, legislators appointed by him would have worked with his Hong Kong Chinese successor, Tung Chee-hwa, to set the rules for elections in Hong Kong.

Instead, on July 1 China will carry through its threat to dismiss the "illegally elected" legislature. A provisional legislature put together by China will replace it. Legislators appointed by China rather than Britain will determine how their successors are elected in 1998.

The shape of democratic institutions in Hong Kong matters in no small measure because, so far, Deng has proved right. Since 1984, China has become a great deal more like Hong Kong. (Hong Kong, too, has changed, but not to resemble other parts of China.)

There is no inherent reason that Hong Kong's powerful influence on China should not continue after July 1, or that its influence should be limited forever to economic rather than political liberalization.

Despite the unpromising beginning wrought by British actions and Chinese reactions, there are grounds for optimism. Chinese missteps in Hong Kong would be self-sanctioning, and China knows it.

If press freedoms are significantly curtailed, Hong Kong's role as a regional media center will wither; The Asian Wall Street Journal, Interna-

tional Herald Tribune, CNN and others will find a more congenial base for their operations. (There is a reason they are in Hong Kong rather than Singapore.) If Chinese interfer-

China knows that missteps now would carry a high cost.

ence or corruption saps the Hong Kong economy of its legendary vigor, its business elite will leave for Australia, Canada, the United States or other countries, where most have already established a right of residence.

If the 1998 elections are a sham, the reaction in Hong Kong and abroad will severely damage the investment climate. The security of the Hong Kong dollar will be in doubt. Capital will go elsewhere.

Beijing understands all this. That's why it is a good bet that China will live up to its pledge that "Hong Kong people will run Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy." The greatest threats to Hong Kong, in fact, probably don't come from China at all.

On July 1, thousands of foreign reporters and dozens of camera crews will be in Hong Kong to watch the change of sovereignty. In politics, as in particle physics, observation of an event can change and define it. The reporters will be in Hong Kong looking for trouble. (Their editors are not sending them there to report good news.) That level of demand for trouble is likely to induce someone to supply it. — Hong Kong could suffer irreparable damage from reporting that makes a photogenic but minor incident a misleading symbol of its future under Chinese rule.

Then there are the actions of the United States. The relationship be-

tween Hong Kong and China is symbiotic. Hong Kong's business elite is now much more worried about a fatal ricochet from the current fusillade of American potshots at China than it is about what China might do to it after July 1. Hong Kong would be the main victim of a decision by the United States to deny China normal trading status. American politicians, suffering from apparent "enemy deprivation" and calling for a new cold war with China, unnerve Hong Kong more than they do Beijing.

To continue to prosper, to evolve toward a more democratic society and to be a catalyst for accelerated change in China, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China will need three things from the United States.

It will need policies that reflect sustained American concern for its well-being and seek to hold Beijing to its word. It will need sympathetic support as its politicians bargain with Beijing over the electoral system to take effect in 1998. But, most of all, it will need the security and confidence that only a stable and improving American relationship with China can provide.

Journal FRANK RICH

Better Never Than Late

Not content to deliberate endlessly over how to stamp out the national epidemic of flag desecration, Congress has come up with another bright idea: a bill officially apologizing for slavery. Though opposition to this gesture has made strange bedfellows out of Jesse Jackson (who called it "meaningless") and Newt Gingrich ("a dead end"), Bill Clinton is already hedging about it, a few Congressmen are calling for reparations, and the debate could easily eat up the full year of the President's promised race initiative.

Why not just cut to the chase, and have Strom Thurmond deliver the apology right now?

The bipartisan, all-white Congressmen sponsoring the apology mean well. But as Eric Foner, the Columbia University historian who wrote the definitive text on Reconstruction, says: "At the end of the Civil War, the slaves didn't want an apology. They wanted substantive change in the way things were — 'Give us some land, and you can keep the apology.'" If Congress wants to apologize, it might start with its own transgressions, from Willie Horton-inspired campaign ads to its persistent inability to address the inner-city meltdown that is the most intractable legacy of slavery and its bastard offspring, segregation, today.

But this would require substance, not symbolism, and when it comes to substance about race and poverty, both parties would rather play to the gallery. The G.O.P. focus on ending affirmative action is a hit in the polls, so never mind that the party with a Congressional majority has offered

Congress moves against slavery.

teachers-union bashing in lieu of action to deal with the root of all ills, falling schools in grades K-12. Nor have the Republicans found a plausible substitute for affirmative action that might win over the only three major figures in the party with credibility on race — Colin Powell, Jack Kemp and the lone black Congressman, J. C. Watts — all of whom favor a just reform of affirmative action, not its abolition without a net for the poor.

Mr. Clinton, meanwhile, has taken hits for what cynics regard as a public-relations racial policy: a call for a national conversation, the appointment of yet another blue-ribbon commission and town meetings that may fade as quickly as the volunteerism summit in Philadelphia. In fairness, he should be given the year he's asked for, and the benefit of the doubt. But you don't have to be cynical to have lots of doubts.

Candid conversation about race — as opposed to the P.C. homilies of Mr. Clinton's San Diego speech — is easier decreed than had in a country that has already repressed memory of the stark racial gap revealed by the polar black and white reactions to both O. J. black and white reactions to Mr. Clinton verdicts. As for actions, Mr. Clinton took seven months to fill the top job for civil-rights enforcement in his

own Justice Department. At the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, there is now a backlog of 75,000 discrimination cases. And Mr. Clinton has little beyond rhetoric to offer the nation's cities, either.

No one doubts the President's empathy with African-Americans. But empathy won't get anyone a job, housing or education. "The problem with Clinton," says Roger Wilkins, the author and Johnson Administration civil-rights official, "is he's like somebody who says I owe you some money, and I really want to pay you, but I had to stop by the gambling casino on the way to your house."

Since big-government schemes for addressing social welfare are politically taboo, Mr. Wilkins says that if he were President, he would have convened the country's best mayors to identify their "biggest problems and biggest successes" in dealing with the crises of race and poverty in their own cities. These mayors — of all races and both parties — are on the front lines; every day the most creative and committed of them are trying out "real ideas" on "real people"; their proposals for replicating their successes nationally and for targeted Federal funding to help do so would have the credibility that Washington programs do not.

But the President we do have — and his political adversaries — seem inclined to deal with the abstract rather than the concrete. If a year from now there is nothing to show for their efforts but a repeal of affirmative action and a loftily written Presidential report, they will truly have something to apologize for.

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THE ARTS

Air Hercules Joins Disney's Pantheon of Pitchmen

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, Zeus, married to Hera, misbehaved one night with the mortal wife of Amphitryon, king of Thebes. Result: Hercules.

The Disney version has a different take. In the studio's latest animated film, the frenzied and cynical "Hercules," the title character springs from the twin sources of Myth and Avarice. The myth can be seen in references to ancient Greece. The avarice derives from an epochal discovery Walt Disney made back in the 1930's: if you hustle, you can make as much money selling toys based on your characters as you can from the film itself. Maybe more.

The first deal set up by Walt's in-house marketing division was for the licensing of Mickey Mouse ice-cream cones. Ten million of those were sold in the first month. Since then, nurseries of the world have overflowed with representations of Disney mice, ducks, dogs, cats, dwarfs, princes, subaqueous beauties and other wonders. Yet with all the merchandising, animation remained Walt Disney's lifelong passion. (He once confessed, "I love Mickey Mouse more than any woman I've known.")

The impresario couldn't draw with

from me." Audiences and critics wore their palms out applauding, and the new Disney cast its shadow across the globe. The Broadway musical had found a new home.

From Find Your Inner Mermaid, and Find Your Inner Crab, the writers turned to a less complicated theme in "Beauty and the Beast." Here Katzenberg, then top gun in the mouse academy, expressed dissatisfaction with some early footage of the heavy, He summoned the chief animator, Andreas Deja. The boss "put up his feet on the table and just talked," Deja recalled.

"He said the theme of the movie was, Don't judge a book by the cover," he added. "My job was to do something bold with Gaston so that he looked like a hero but was conniving and evil."

Deja kept his villain handsome but added some connivance around the eyes and allowed a smirk to play around the mouth. The film employed the talents of performers like Jerry Orbach and Angela Lansbury, theater veterans who knew how to sell a song. The score contained many delights. And the story, based on a fairy tale in the public domain, pleased many and offended only the kind of purists who disliked "Pinocchio" back in 1940, the year the Italian Ministry complained that the little wooden kid "easily could be mistaken for an American."

With the next smash hit, "Aladdin" (1992), I found myself asking, in chorus with much of the rest of the audience, what is this film really about? The answer: it was about an hour and a half of excellent, if frantic, shtick by Robin Williams, along with a high style borrowed from the elegant lines of the theatrical cartoonist Al Hirschfeld. But that was all it was about.

The Disney facade was made nearly impregnable by the film's huge financial profits: \$217 million at home and abroad, plus the revenue that came in when 254 million copies of the videotape were sold, not to mention the income from toys and clothing. But insiders knew that all was not well in the Enchanted Kingdom. Katzenberg, given great credit by the news media for Disney's resurgence, had begun to grate on his boss, and he and Eisner acrimoni-



"The Hunchback of Notre Dame"

ously parted company. While the disgruntled ex-employee and his new partners, Spielberg and David Geffen, announced plans for their own animation feature, "Prince of Egypt," a full-length retelling of the story of Moses, Disney went on to produce the remarkable "Lion King" in 1994. Strangely enough, its very maturity, including the death of an elder lion, tended to frighten critics more than it did children. Here, I think, Disney was right and the naysayers wrong. The film stands on its own today, a tribute to the institution of the family and to patriarchal responsibility.

But, alas, having valorously confronted matters of life and death, Disney seemed to suffer a loss of nerve. "Pocahontas," the most politically correct project to be seen outside the Smithsonian, advanced the real maiden's age by about 10 years, turned her into a Native American Barbie and Captain John Smith into a Ken doll and hypocritically pushed its P.C. message in song.

Gazing at the money-hungry British imperialists, Pocahontas treats her beloved: "Come run the hidden pain trails of the forest! Come taste the sun-sweet berries of the earth! Come roll in all the riches all around you! And for once never wonder what they're worth." This from a company that has its plastic toys made in China.

What was this film about? It was about the fact that Disney could still



Hercules is the latest in a long line of Disney movie characters who offer both a moral message and unlimited marketing opportunities.

offer a hit tune. "The Colors of the Wind," and deal yet more merchandise, as evidenced by the enthusiastic displays of toys, T-shirts and caps in its emporiums.

Disney's next animated feature, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," seems to me a catastrophic turning point in the studio's approach. Besides deriding religion, it also lampoons its literary source, naming the gargoyle Victor, Hugo and LaVerne. What child could possibly understand this allusion to the Andrews Sisters? Was it put in to amuse their parents? Hardly: polls tell us that those people tend to confuse World War II with the Pleistocene Epoch. Their grandparents? Possibly, but what percentage of the audience were they?

No, it seems far more likely that the writers and animators were merely amusing themselves, kidding the original with winks and nudges, as if to say, "We know what we've done is gilded junk, but you know that we know it's junk, so, like, it's post-modern irony, right?"

With "Hercules," the animators and writers have again taken the low road, this time at breakneck velocity. In Disney's 35th full-length animated feature the classic source is buried beneath a cascade of anachronisms and self-mockeries. To be sure, the film boasts outstanding vocal talents — James Woods, Rip Torn, Danny DeVito and many others. And Ralph Steadman's freewheeling design incorporates friezes, Olympian majesty and Hellenic uniforms circa 500 B.C. But these seldom alleviate the sense of hyperthyroidism and pervasive vulgarity.

"Hercules" opens with a reading by Charlton Heston, full of sonorous dignity, immediately interrupted by muses caterwauling "the gospel truth" about an individual who "put the glad in gladiator," thereby going "from zero to hero." That is the last evidence of Heston or sonorous dignity.

AFTER A brief period as a superbaby playing with little Pegasus (I can see the plastic toys rolling off the assembly line even now), Hercules is abducted from Olympus by the imps Pain and Panic (more toys), operators of Hades, ruler of the underworld. Adopted by some poor farmers, the tot abruptly develops into a muscular youth of great promise but no direction.

So far, this demigod bears a spiritual resemblance to the other lost young souls from the old Disney factory: Pinocchio, Bambi, Cinderella, Mowgli, the lion prince. But those protagonists had credible difficulties and real growing pains. Hercules' only trouble is his strength: with some awkward missteps he brings down an agora, pillars and all, infuriates the townspeople and runs off to find himself.

En route to his place in the Larousse encyclopedia, Hercules is seduced, sidetracked, taunted and tempted by the likes of the 30-headed Hydra ("who put the gory in allego-

ry" would be appropriate here); Megara, a Barbie with big hair and a bigger wardrobe; an Olympic trainer, Philoctetes ("Call me Phil"), and the hooded Hades himself (are these great figurines or what?). Ultimately, with brute strength, some trickery and a last minute and totally unconvincing uplift of heart and soul, Hercules triumphs. He even gets the girl, by becoming a human instead of a god, like his father.

As with "Hunchback," it seems fair to ask what "Hercules" is about. Tom Schumacher, executive vice president for feature animation at Walt Disney, has stated that "fundamentally, this film is about the idea of strength, of who you are and what character is."

"It also," he said, "deals with the notion of what celebrity is, what pop culture is, what it means to be popular."

So it does. It says that a steroid body will get you noticed, that you can foil the opposition with a technicality and that when you get really famous, folks will buy anything with your name on it.

Who are these messages aimed at? Small children? I hope not;

they'll be terrified by the scenes of Hades, in which dead souls float in a ghastly maelstrom, as well as by the various loud and violent monsters. Furthermore, the festival of anachronisms (Hades chortles about his hostile takeover bid for Olympus; Thebes is portrayed as the Big Olive) are bound to whistle far over their heads. Older children will understand the references but not their ultimate and depressing significance. For if Disney has aimed to kid the toga off an ancient legend, the jape has backfired, big time.

Everything that sinks must also converge, and on the way down Disney has finally met Warner Brothers. The latter studio recently produced "Space Jam," making a travesty of its best cartoon characters. A Warner executive admitted to me that the film was "merely a hanger for playthings we sell in the Warner store," and the most acute criticism I heard came from a boy who complained afterward that "Bugs Bunny wasn't in the movie, just someone playing Bugs."

"Hercules," with far superior film technique, is every bit as shameless. In the most telling moment in the

movie, the hero becomes a celebrity after a series of brave deeds. Overnight his name is on everyone's lips and on an emporium designed to look just like a Disney Store. Go ahead, the filmmakers seem to be saying, call us avaricious. We got there before you.

That they did. But at what cost? You can thumb your nose at the Arabian Nights, a French novel, even a Greek icon. But when you lampoon your own product, you're playing a mug's game.

Right now professional animators can sense that despite the hype and hoopla about Disney's part in the resurgence of New York's 42d Street, especially the refurbished New Amsterdam Theater, where Hercules had its premiere a week ago, the Disney formula is running out. It is only a question of time before critics, then ticket buyers, begin to ask, who put the greed in ingredients? □

Stefan Kanfer's book "Serious Business: The Art and Commerce of Animation in America from Betty Boop to 'Toy Story'" was published recently by Scribner.

The creators of Mickey Mouse are lampooning their own product, but want you to buy, buy, buy.

much panache, couldn't write dialogue or compose music or lyrics. He was a naïf and a right-winger, biased against blacks, Jews and homosexuals. His taste could be vulgar, and his self-importance was notorious ("This will make Beethoven!" he is supposed to have said when he happily appraised the Pastoral section of "Fantasia").

But Walt rightly regarded animation as an American art form, and he maintained the highest technical standards in the business. Indeed, the director Chuck Jones recalls that during the 50's, when he and the other overworked animators at Warner Brothers were producing the great Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck comedies, the Disney employees "were slaving away at art."

"It never occurred to us," he said, "that Warners and Walt were in the same business."

But by the time of Walt's death in 1966, other forces had crowded animation out of first place in the Disney empire. Now the prime sources of revenue were nature documentaries, live films like "Mary Poppins" and, of course, the vast and artificial universe of Disneyland. For decades after, animation fell into low repute as schlock companies took over the profitable arena of Saturday morning television. To be sure, the Disney studio still offered an occasional featureless feature, like "The Rescuers." Yet it was not until the Disney family was out and the outsiders Michael Eisner and Jeffrey Katzenberg were in that high-quality animation was revived.

The renaissance began in 1988 with "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," a lively collaboration between Disney and Steven Spielberg's Amblin studio. Then, on its own book, Disney produced a far more influential work, "The Little Mermaid," with a score by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. More than any other feature, this one quite literally took the play from New York and brought it to the Coast.

By the late 80's, the most important theatrical blockbusters were being forged by foreigners. Ashman fought back. He sensed that audiences in the United States were still hungry for the kind of big, made-in-America show in which, as he put it, "the characters sing about what they want." In "Mermaid," the title character sat on a rock and voiced her yearnings, while Sebastian the Crab jauntily replied, Calypso style, "Under da sea/Darling it's better/Down where it's wetter/Take it



Simba and Uncle Scar in "The Lion King" — The film is a full-length retelling of the Moses story.

ously parted company. While the disgruntled ex-employee and his new partners, Spielberg and David Geffen, announced plans for their own animation feature, "Prince of Egypt," a full-length retelling of the story of Moses, Disney went on to produce the remarkable "Lion King" in 1994. Strangely enough, its very maturity, including the death of an elder lion, tended to frighten critics more than it did children. Here, I think, Disney was right and the naysayers wrong. The film stands on its own today, a tribute to the institution of the family and to patriarchal responsibility.

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Who named the Sephardim "Ashkenazi?"

A rose is a rose by any other name. But an Ashkenazi is not necessarily an Ashkenazi at all. Larry Derfner discovers the origins of the most common surnames in Israel

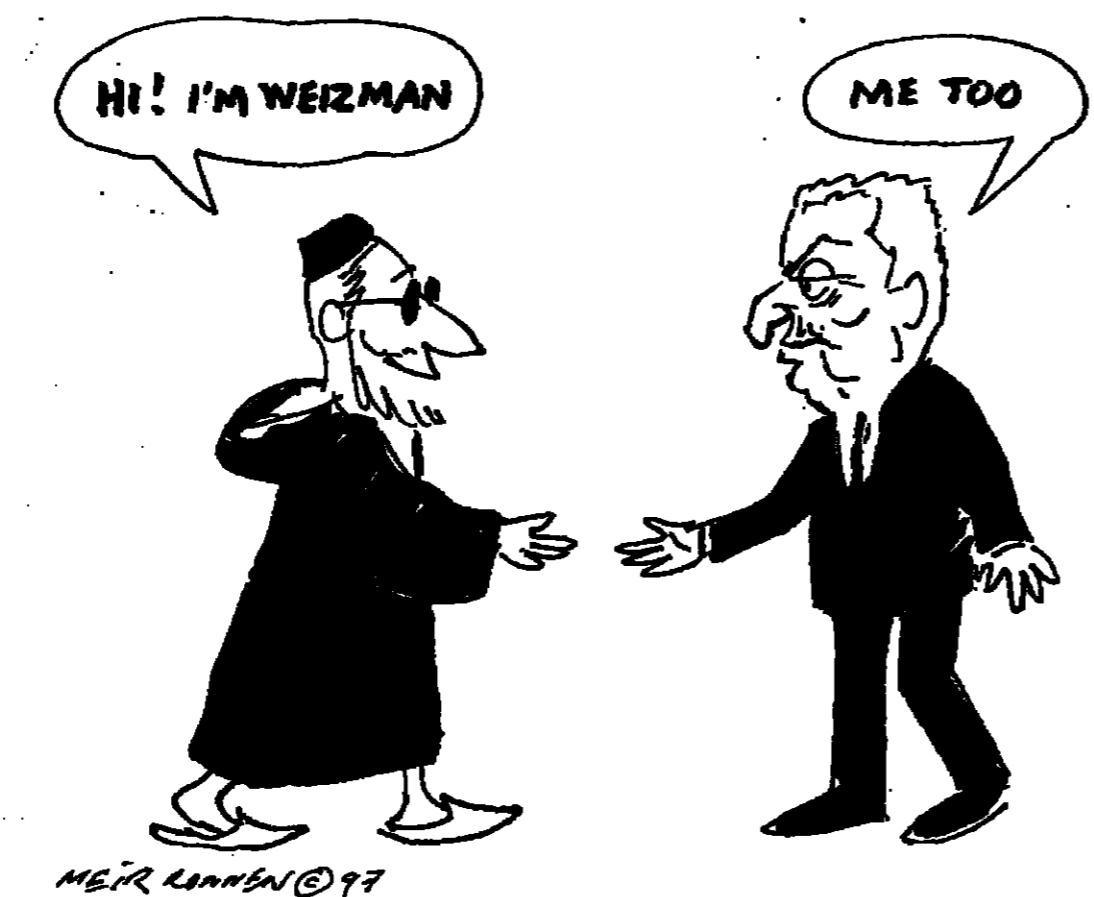
Why are so many Sephardi Jews named Ashkenazi? Because their ancestors came from Ashkenaz (medieval Germany and northern France), and when they migrated to the Balkan countries in the 16th century, the Sephardi Jews there called them "Ashkenazi," a name which lived on even after they "assimilated" into Sephardi society through marriage.

Ashkenazi is the 20th most common surname in Israel. Explanations of the origins of the 200 most common Israeli names, from Cohen to Nahmani, make up Avraham Ariel's just released *Sefer Hashemot* ("Book of Names").

"The history of these names illustrates the history of the Jewish people, and tells the story of how they were displaced around the globe," said Ariel.

A retired merchant seaman who says he is "addicted to research," Ariel went through Jewish encyclopedias, population records, other books on Jewish names, and interviewed Israelis, discovering along the way a number of peculiarities. "For instance, the name Weizman [No. 165] is known as an Ashkenazi name - it means 'grain dealer' in Yiddish. Yet it's also a fairly common name among Moroccan Jews, but they took it from the name of a Berber tribe that lived in the desert of southern Morocco," he said.

The names Edri (No. 19) and Deri (No. 141) come from the same source - a city named Edrei, which, in biblical times, was located in what is now Jordan. "The Jews left Edrei and settled in a town in southern Morocco, probably in the first century BCE. The new town became the cradle of Jewish life in Morocco, and



They named it Dara'a after their old hometown of Edrei. The names Edri and Deri went on from there," said Ariel.

The main historical lesson he learned was "the dominance of the Sephardi names," and with it the dominance of the Sephardim in Jewish history. "Doing the research gave me an inferiority complex about being Ashkenazi," said Ariel, smiling. (His family name was Glembofsky, taken from a shtetl in Poland.) "When my ancestors were raising goats in the tsar's empire, those who are today often derided as *frenkim* [a derogatory term for Sephardim] made the greatest contribution to Judaism since the Talmud, and in fact managed the world," he said.

Registry listed 123,431 Cohens, Ariel writes. Second were the Levys, at 73,687. Then came a sharp drop to Mizrahi, with 23,897 namesakes, with Peretz, Biton, Daham, Avraham, Friedman (the most common strictly Ashkenazi name), Azulai and Katz rounding out the Top Ten. In interviews with Israelis, Ariel found that most had either no idea or the wrong idea of their names' origins. "I would ask people named Maimon [No. 54] where the name came from and they would say, 'Maimonides - the Rambam,' from the 12th century. I would tell them there are graves in Morocco with the names Maimon going back to the fourth century BCE," he said.

The Top Twenty

These are the most common Israeli surnames (as of the end of 1996, according to the Interior Ministry's Population Registry):

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Cohen, 123,431 namesakes | 11. Malcha, 12,226 |
| 2. Levy, 73,687 | 12. David, 10,946 |
| 3. Mizrahi, 23,897 | 13. Amar, 10,458 |
| 4. Peretz, 20,458 | 14. Gabbai, 10,364 |
| 5. Biton, 19,612 | 15. Ohayon, 10,317 |
| 6. Daham, 14,329 | 16. Haddad, 10,171 |
| 7. Avraham, 14,302 | 17. Yosef, 9,951 |
| 8. Friedman, 12,868 | 18. Ben-David, 8,938 |
| 9. Azzilai, 12,708 | 19. Edri, 8,715 |
| 10. Katz, 12,287 | 20. Ashkenazi, 8,653 |

AT THE end of last year, the Interior Ministry's Population

Home Front



Bamba: 1, Mom: 0

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

It's not easy to admit that you've been defeated by a snack food. But I feel strong enough to make that confession. I've been beaten by Bamba. For the unlightened, Bamba is far and away the most popular snack product in Israel. Forget about potato chips, pretzels, and other such fare. Bamba leaves them in the dust.

For years, I have failed to see the attraction that this particular treat possesses. In the past, I would describe the phenomenon to recent arrivals to the country in a derisive tone. "A Bamba," I would say, "is this puffed-up little corn thing with the consistency of styrofoam. It's like a Cheeto back home, except a little less crunchy and a little more soggy. And get this - instead of flavoring it with tangy cheddar cheese, the little sucker tastes

fruit onto his high-chair tray. "Look at the poor kid," hubby complained. "Cheerios are much too small for him to grasp. And the fruit just slides out of his hand. Why don't we give him some Bamba? They're just the right size for him to hold and chew on."

But I held firm. No Bamba for Eitan. "Did you know," I asked my husband, "that peanuts are one of the most highly allergenic foods? Do we want to play around with his health?"

But I forgot to mention my stand to my babysitter. And she was deeply shocked when I reacted negatively to her proud announcement that she had fed Bamba to Eitan. "I didn't know that you could be allergic to Bamba," she said. "All the babies eat it. I figured it had to be good for them."

A discovery that the bag of Bamba was empty would send a panicked parent hurrying to the nearest market or kiosk, like some kind of drug addict rushing to get their fix.

like peanut butter. Can you believe it? Disgusting."

What I found most repellent about Bamba was how mothers and fathers, clearly brainwashed by the corporate machinations of its manufacturer, seemed to stuff it into the mouths of their preschoolers at a frightening rate. A discovery that the bag of Bamba was empty would send a panicked parent hurrying to the nearest market or kiosk, like some kind of drug addict rushing to get their fix. They were inescapable: at every shopping mall, at every park, there they were, those little brown pellets that looked like the droppings of some giant bird.

Now don't get me wrong: I knew that my children would never be hothouse creatures fed only home-cooked organic fruits and vegetables. I'm as fond of convenience food as anyone else. But I thought that I had my red lines, and that certain local child-rearing customs crossed those boundaries. I vowed I would never make a chocolate spread sandwich and call it lunch. And I swore that I would not allow my kid to become a Bamba addict.

I first realized that I had a tough road ahead when my son Eitan's favorite video featured not one, but two commercials for Bamba, starring an annoying little cartoon baby with a saggy diaper whose first three words are, "Ima, Abba, Bamba!" (Mommy, Daddy, Bamba!).

My husband joined the pro-Bamba campaign when I first started introducing Eitan to the concept of finger foods. I proudly sprinkled healthy, whole-grain Cheerios and chunks of

to her gently, that she, who lived in Moscow until six years ago, was not wise to the plots of the evil capitalist consumer conspiracy the way I was. The Bamba bag, I pointed out, is designed to lull parents into believing that it into the mouths of their preschoolers at a frightening rate. A discovery that the bag of Bamba was empty would send a panicked parent hurrying to the nearest market or kiosk, like some kind of drug addict rushing to get their fix. They were inescapable: at every shopping mall, at every park, there they were, those little brown pellets that looked like the droppings of some giant bird.

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EARTHLY CONCERNS

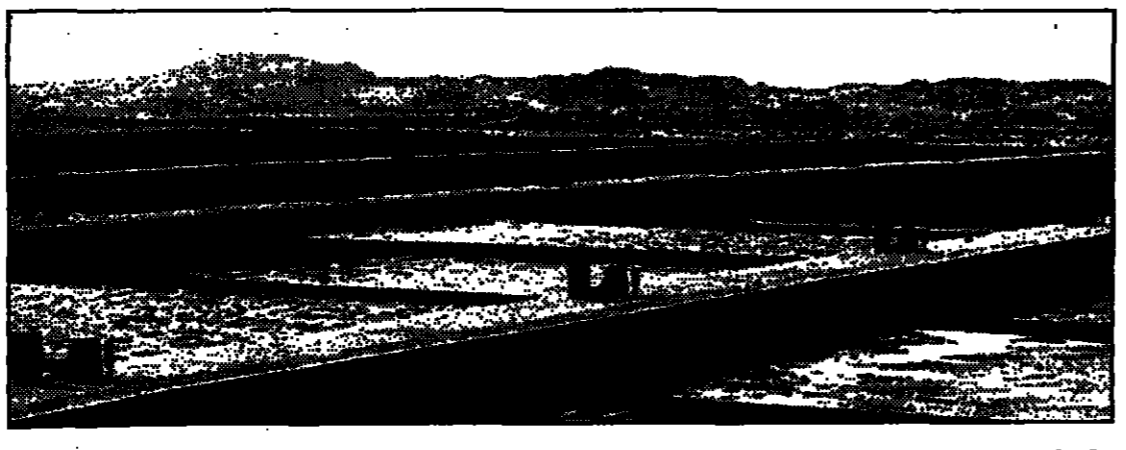
Nature's magic recycling agent

By DVORA BEN SHAIR

Duckweed is a most unimpressive aquatic plant. It's nothing more than a flat green glob floating on the water with a clump of thin white hair-like roots dangling from it. But its importance to the environment is far more impressive. In fact, it is proving to be one of the two most efficient plants for cleaning up sewage effluents.

As world populations burgeon, particularly in the cities, the streams of sewage water swell to such a degree that experts fear that soon conventional sewage treatment will not be able to handle the load. These hi-tech systems depend on thousands of miles of collection pipes and channels, emergency outlets, gigantic processing tanks, turbine engines and a continuous supply of energy to keep everything moving. Add to this the complex chemical monitoring units that are needed to process facilities, each of which handles tens of thousands of cubic liters of wastewater every day.

As technology grows increasingly expensive and energy sources more limited, it has become almost impossible to repair or upgrade existing facilities in even wealthy



Treatment plant for Gush Dan wastewater: Purifying sewage water is becoming increasingly expensive. (D. Rosenblum)

countries, let alone build new ones in poorer countries. Yet it's imperative to treat this vast amount of sewage water for the sake of the environment. Moreover, the recycled water is a matter of life or death in many places where it supplies the principal source of water for agriculture.

Experiments have shown that duckweed can play a vital part in purifying water to a level that is suitable for growing crops. The raw

sewage is first channeled into large ponds for sedimentation where all coarser matter settles to the bottom. This sludge can later be chemically treated for sanitary purposes and used as fertilizer. The supernatant water is then moved to a second pond where it is oxygenated. At this point, anaerobic organisms (those that live in an airless environment) die and aerobic bacteria that thrive on oxygen break down a large portion of the organic material in the

water. The water then passes into a third pond where it is seeded with duckweed. From this point on, the only thing needed for further purification is sunlight and air.

The floating duckweed reproduces at an amazing rate, and soon the entire surface of the water is a solid carpet of little green leaves. A planting the size of a human thumb will develop enough new plants to cover six dunams in 55 days, under optimal conditions. In

fact, reproduction is so rapid that there is often an oversupply of duckweed which can be raked from the surface with simple techniques and used as a high-quality cattle food (either fresh or dried and used as a component in concentrated cattle food).

Another water-purifying plant is the water hyacinth, which is even better at removing nutrients from sewage water. Originating in China, it was introduced to the US by a returning missionary in the 19th century. It thrived so well in the southern US, that the state of Florida spends several million dollars a year just dredging the water hyacinths out of the waterways. Unfortunately, almost all varieties of this beautiful purple-flowering plant are useful only where the weather is constantly warm. In cold weather, it becomes dormant or dies. Water hyacinths are nevertheless widely used for sewage water treatment in California and other parts of the southwestern US.

But the hardy duckweed is native to almost every part of the globe, and a local strain that has adapted to the ambient weather conditions can almost always be found.

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BUSINESS

in brief

Gov't: No cut in industrial incubators

The Chief Scientist's Office, a division in the Industry and Trade Ministry, has no plans to reduce the number of incubator projects, a spokesperson said...

Overseas tour guiding licensing canceled

From next week, Israeli tour leaders accompanying groups abroad will no longer have to be licensed by the government.

Discount in regional banking forum

Bank Discount will represent Israeli banks in the Mediterranean Bank Network, an organization of bankers from Tunisia, Turkey, Italy, Slovenia and Malta.

Treasury: At least NIS 2b. cut in '98 budget

Foreign currency reserves surpass \$17b.; foreign debt stable

By DAVID HARRIS

It is already clear that the 1998 state budget will be cut by at least NIS 2 billion, a Finance Ministry source said yesterday.

talks between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, former finance minister Dan Meridor, and Bank of Israel governor Jacob Frenkel, a cut of NIS 600m. was agreed upon.

Tadiran opens Moscow office

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Tadiran Telecommunications, a subsidiary of Tadiran Ltd., has opened a representative office in Moscow and is planning to open another one in St. Petersburg...

Jordan okays Israeli use of Akaba Airport

By SARA ABDALLAH

AMMAN - Jordan said yesterday it has agreed to allow Israel to use Akaba airport to ease pressure on the airport in Eilat.

joint committee had agreed that experimental flights should take place, carrying both passengers and cargo.

civilian flights use the nearby air force base at Uvda.

million, but officials said there are disagreements between the two sides on the construction and function.

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IMF's Fischer: Gov't concealing problems

By DAVID HARRIS

IMF's political economy is a mess and the government is guilty of concealing budgetary problems, Stanley Fischer, first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said yesterday...

the world, particularly in Chile and Bolivia. "There is no magic formula, [but] most of these countries have used an exchange-rate anchor," he said.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS. Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96). Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.6.97). Table with columns: Currency, 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS, Buy, Sell, Banknotes, Rep.

هكزان التحليل

John Hancock settles class action suit for \$350m.

By MICHAEL ELLIS

BOSTON (Reuters) - John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., hit by an investigation of its sales practices, on Friday settled a class-action lawsuit for \$350m. The settlement will offer policyholders who bought insurance from 1979 to 1996 a "wide array of relief and benefits," John Hancock said.

Insurance and regulators from other states about allegations of deceptive sales practices. "We've been talking about them with the [insurance] commissioner's office and regulators from a number of other states for many months now, and we will continue to do so until this is resolved," Hancock said.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York Life Insurance Co., and Allianz Life Insurance Co. of North America all have been involved in similar actions in the last two years. "Over the years, the company has taken a number of major steps to crack down on inappropriate sales activity as well as individual agents who tried to operate outside the rules," Hancock's Brown said.

The agency also has requested sales marketing literature and procedural manuals for training agents. "The purpose of that is so that we can go through it and see whether it bears out allegations of unfair conduct," he said. "They've indicated a willingness to cooperate with our investigation."

COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

Gold hits 4-year low

By MICHAEL ZWERNER

Gold futures registered new life-of-contract lows on Friday and spot gold, bullion logged its lowest weekly close since 1993. Sources said that because of the lack of involvement by funds, there is still a lot of selling capacity left in this market.

In the physical market, the acute shortage of metal pushed short-term lease rates higher, with one month palladium lease rates seen around 130 percent early Friday and one month platinum around 80%.

August gold closed down \$3.00 per oz. on Friday to close at \$339.40. September silver was down 3.30 cents per oz., at 475.90 cents. The July high-grade copper contract closed down 4.05 cents per pound, at 118.10 cents.

Rush for Hong Kong listings in last week of British rule

By DONNY KWOK

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Six companies will make a last-minute dash next week to list their shares in Hong Kong before the territory's return to Chinese rule, hoping to ride a wave of pre-handover euphoria, analysts said.

Analysts said there was a chance US interest rates might rise and this could hurt the market. But after the Hang Seng Index staged its biggest points gain on Friday, advancing 647.87 points, or 4.47 percent, to 15,154.36, analysts said there was enough momentum to see shares move higher next week.

Analysts believe the popularity of Leading Spirit Corrowa's electrical appliances in China will help its debut. The firm, a spinoff of Leading Spirit (Holdings), issued 393 million shares at HK\$1.00. The Hong Kong offering of 275 million shares was 113 times subscribed.

Beijing Yanhua and Jiangsu Expressway could make tepid debuts due to concerns about the petrochemical industry outlook and a heavy flow of toll road IPOs this year, analysts said.

DADA COMMUNICATIONS VIA... Foreign financial data courtesy of Commstock Trading Ltd.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by Commstock Trading Ltd.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES table with columns for LAST, CHANGE, and company names.

Table with columns for LAST, CHANGE, and company names including L.D.B. Holdings, L.D.C., and others.

Table with columns for LAST, CHANGE, and company names including Clear Hashilon, Packer Steel, and others.

Table with columns for LAST, CHANGE, and company names including Ashdod, Ashdod 2, and others.

TASE ROUNDUP

Rate cut fails to boost shares

Mishtanim 296.91 ▲ 0.18%

Maof 304.06 ▼ 0.48%

By ROBERT DANIEL

Shares were mixed yesterday as investors tempered their optimism about recently announced lower interest rates. The Tase Index of 25 most-traded issues fell 0.48 percent to 304.06 and the Mishtanim Index of 100 stocks advanced 0.18 percent to 296.91.

NIS 17.8 million of shares. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 265.2m. of shares traded. That's 12% more than the month's daily average of NIS 236.3m. Gaining shares rose almost 2 to 1 over losers.

Canada, US deadlocked in salmon talks

By ROBERT DANIEL

VANCOUVER (Reuters) - Canada and the US reached a stalemate on Friday in bitter talks aimed at resolving a dispute over how to divide the Pacific salmon catch, but agreed to meet next week to try again.

Fortier said he was "deeply disappointed" with the talks because US proposals were not "reasonable or equitable." His US counterpart Mary Beth West also said she was disappointed by Canada's refusal to make an acceptable proposal to conserve Coho salmon stocks.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

American maestro Steven Gunzenhauser leads the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra in the overture to L'italiana in Algeri by Rossini...

ETHNIC MUSIC

HELEN KAYE



A new series of 'The Larry Sanders Show' starts tonight on the Family Channel.

Vlado Kreslin brings music from Slovenia to the Inbal Ethnic Arts Center tonight at 9 p.m. Kreslin, who started out as a rock singer, is one of Slovenia's most popular artists.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

CON AIR - This is a noisy, fast-moving, violent affair - ridiculous in its essence but cleverly packaged, too, so that both diehard action fans and those with a more old-fashioned yen for character and plot should be satisfied.

After serving a prison sentence for manslaughter (he was defending his wife's honor and accidentally killed a man) Nicolas Cage is put on a US Marshal plane bound for home. But his fellow convicts on board - an ugly-looking bunch whose flamboyantly depraved members include sadistic ringleader John Malkovich, black militant Ving Rhames and Steve Buscemi, as a sort of boyish Hannibal Lecter - plan to hijack the plane, kill a few guards and make a break for Colombia.

GHOSTS FROM THE PAST - There's nothing sexy or sensational about this Rob Reiner film, a straight-ahead recounting of the belated 1994 attempt to bring to justice the white supremacist responsible for the 1963 murder of civil rights

activist Medgar Evers. Visually, structurally, and rhythmically, the picture is merely functional and could easily pass as made-for-TV movie. Despite its stylistic limitations, though, Ghosts comes closer to animating honestly the emotional legacy of racism and oppression than many slicker films about the civil rights movement. Working from a well-researched, adequately written script by Lewis Colick, Reiner takes a true story and attempts to tell it as clearly as possible. He assumes - correctly in this case - that an unadorned recreation of the actual events is bound to be much more compelling than a bogus load of pseudo-documentary pap. The result is an engrossing character drama. With Alec Baldwin, Whoopi Goldberg, James Woods and a fine cast of supporting players. Released in the US as Ghosts of Mississippi. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The Family Channel airs the fourth season of The Larry Sanders Show starting tonight at 9:15 p.m. The award-winning series exposes what goes on behind the scenes of American talk shows. This season, Sanders's show hits the rocks when his producers decide to quit and Larry (Gary Shandling) has to cut down on costs and raise ratings. His personal life gets to be rather stormy as well. Among the guest stars this season are Chevy Chase, Ryan O'Neal, Jeff Goldblum, Larry King and Rip Torn.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash Hebrew video clips 6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Time 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Real Truth 8:30 Basic Arabic 9:00 Reading 9:45 For the very young 10:15 Sciences 10:40 English 11:10 Social Sciences 11:40 Tolerance 12:10 Sciences 12:30 History 13:00 Plain Clothes 13:45 Cartoons 14:15 Kitty Cat and 1099 14:30 Quentin Quack 14:55 Cartoons 15:05 Without Secrets

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Motorhome from Mars 15:35 Cosby Show 20:25 Major Dad 20:50 News Radio 21:15 Diagnosis Murder 21:45 Matlock 23:00 CNN 23:30 The 700 Club 00:00 Quantum Shopping

CHANNEL 1

15:30 News flash 15:35 Hebrew video clips 20:00 News 20:45 Popolizza 22:10 Bugs - a new season of the crime series set in the 21st century. A treasure team of communications experts fights crime using technology. Not puns. With Craig MacLachlan, Jesse Birdsall and Jay Griffiths. 23:00 The Thin Blue Line 23:30 News 00:00 Daily Verse

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs 6:30 Tricky 7:00 Breakfast Magazine 9:00 Meetings 10:00 Public 11:00 The Brits Empire 11:30 Fudge - new series for children 12:00 Doug 12:30 Basic Arabic 13:00 Katz and Allie 13:30 Open Cards 14:00 Degrassi Junior High 14:30 Tic Tac 15:00 New Generation 15:30 Make a Wish 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Bill Fiesher 17:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air 18:00 Snatched 19:00 Baywatch 20:00 News 20:30 Nothing 21:10 ID1 21:45 Dan Shilon Live 23:30 Millennium 00:00 News 00:05 Millennium - contd. 00:25 Night Owls Talk 2:00 On the Edge of the Shelf

JORDAN TV

15:30 Holy Koran 15:40 Sports 15:45 Neighbors 16:30 In the Wild -

documentary

17:00 TR 17:30 Blue Healers 18:10 French programs 18:00 News in French 19:30 News headlines 19:35 Murphy Brown 20:00 Discover magazine 20:30 Murder She Wrote 21:10 Highlander 22:00 News in English 22:30 The Write Stuff 23:15 Homicide

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop 14:30 The 700 Club 15:00 Garbet 15:30 Dennis the Menace 16:00 Larry King 17:00 Family Challenges 17:45 Beakman's World 18:10 Perfect Strangers 18:35 Saved by the Bell 19:00 Showbiz 19:30 World News Tonight 20:00 Cosby Show 20:25 Major Dad 20:50 News Radio 21:15 Diagnosis Murder 21:45 Matlock 23:00 CNN 23:30 The 700 Club 00:00 Quantum Shopping

MIDDLE EAST TV

11:30 American Friends (1993) - a staid Oxford don meets two liberated American women on a vacation abroad. With Michael Palin 14:00 Best of Sitcoms (1990) - comedy about a young man who must learn his own keep when he is displaced in a new country. 15:15 New in the Cinema 15:30 Anorel - a bored banker decides to run away with his wife and Jack Scalia 16:00 Perry Mason: The Poison Pan (1990) - Mason defends the ex-wife of a murdered novelist 16:25 Inferno in Jerusalem (Hebrew, 1989) - two women in turn-of-the-century Berlin try to affect the future Jewish State. Directed by Amir Gital. With Lisa Kreuzer and Rivka Neuman 20:20 It'll Fly Away (1994) - sequel to the successful TV series about a civil rights lawyer and his African housekeeper who battle racism 22:00 The Affair (1995) - tragic tale of love between a black American GI and a married Englishwoman in WWII and the consequences of the secret affair being discovered. With Kenny Fox and Anthony Quayle 23:45 American Samurai (1992) - martial arts with Michael Dudikoff 1:15 Captives (1994) - a prison dentist has an affair with an inmate and is blackmailed by her lover's catamite 2:00 Baby-sitter (1995) (rpt)

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons 9:00 Mighty Max 9:30 Waiting for Summer 9:35 Pink Panther 10:00 Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? 10:25 Lois and Clark 11:20 Family Matters 11:45 Fun on Six 12:00 The Story Teller 13:10 Sonic 13:35 Inspector Power 14:00 The Little Bits 14:30 Mighty Max 15:05 Pink Panther 15:30 Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? 16:00 Ocean Girl 16:30 California 16:50 Days of Our Lives 17:05 Fun on Six

MOVIES

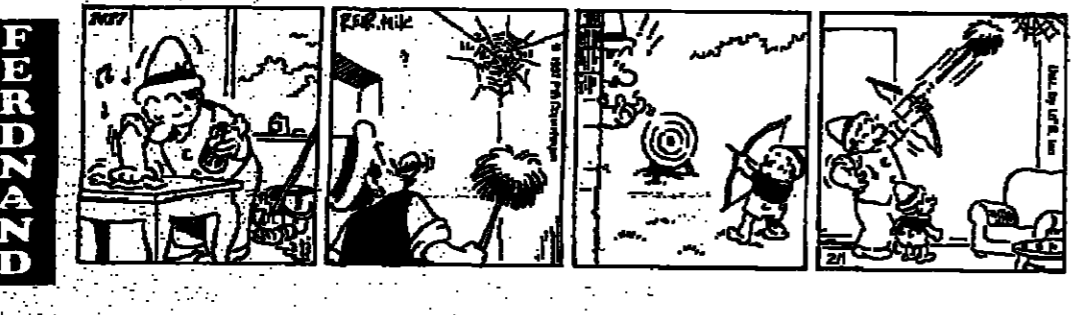
Jerusalem Cinematheque The Devil's Own 5, 9:30 - Late Summer Blues 7 - El Hombre de La Caba Negra 8:20 - G.G. Gil - 6:15 PANORAMA Liar Liar 3, 7, 9:30 - Head Above Water 7, 9:30 - Space Jam 7:30 - Kolya - 9:30 - The Nutty Professor RAV-GAT 1-2 = 8674311 Hercules (English dialogue) 7:15, 9:15 - Con Air 4:30, 7, 9:15 - Hercules (Hebrew dialogue) 7:15, 9:15 - Hercules (Hebrew dialogue) 7:15, 9:15 - Space Jam 7:30 - Kolya - 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 = 6792789 Credit Card Reservations = 6794777 Rav-Mecher 6:30, 9:30 - The Prisoner of the Mountains and the Restless 6:15, 9:15 - Hercules (Hebrew dialogue) 7:15, 9:15 - The English Patient 6:15, 9:30 - MEVASSERET ZION G.G. Gil - 7:15, 10 - SNADAR = 5615168 Self-Made Hero 4:5, 10 - Sing Blade 5:15 - TEL AVIV DIZENGOFF Head Above Water - Hebrew and English 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:45, 10 - GAT Hamlet 4, 6:30 GORDON The People vs Larry Flynt 5:30, 7:45, 10 - G.G. HOD 1-4 = 8226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Killing Zoe 5, 7:30, 10 - Wedding Bell Blues 5, 7:30, 10 - Beavis and Butt-head 5, 7:30, 10 - Different Girl 5, 7:30, 10 - LEV The English Patient 11 a.m., 1:45, 5, 6:30, 9:30 - Stars 11 a.m., 2, 5, 8, - The Prisoner of the Mountains and the Restless 4:30, 8 - Secrets and Lies 11:15 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10 - Self-Made Hero 4, 6, 10 - Beautiful Thing 1 G.G. PEER Liar-Liar-Different Gato-The Promise 5, 7:30, 10 - Veritas 1:15, 10 - Hercules 5, 7:30, 10 - RAV-CHEN = 5282288 Otengott Center Hercules (English dialogue) 7:30, 9:45 - Con Air 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 - High School High 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Absolute Power 5, 7:30, 9:45 - 101 Delmatians 2:30, 5, 7:30 - Hercules (Hebrew dialogue) 2:30, 5 - Design 5, 7:30, 9:45 - RAVOR 1-5 = 5126774 Opera House Everyone Says I Love You-Crest 5, 7:30, 9:45 - Absolute Power 5, 7:15, 9:45 - Sing Blade 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 - Ghosts From the Past 5, 7:30, 9:45 - G.G. TEL AVIV = 5281181 65 Sardinia-The Chamber 5, 7:30, 10 - TEL AVIV MUSEUM When the Cars Aways 5, 8, 10 - HAIFA CINEMA CAFE AMAMI = 8265765 Care and Lies 7 - Empire of the Senses 9:30 - Breaking the Waves 8:45, 9:45 - GLOBECITY = 5669900 Killing Zoe-Liar Liar 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 - Different

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 6 columns (1-6) and 6 rows (1-6) showing TV programs and their times.

17:45 Chiquitas 18:30 Honey Bee Hutch 19:00 Journey to the Center of the Earth 19:30 Israeli Step by Step 20:40 Roseanne 21:10 Cosby Show 21:35 Different World

6:30 Nine To Five 7:00 Pierre Franey's Cooking 7:30 Gil 8:00 Ekd the Cat 8:30 Oprah Winfrey 9:30 Dynasty 10:30 Santa Barbara 11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 12:30 Hindi shows 13:30 Lost in Space 14:30 Doug 15:30 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw 2:00 The Tonight Show (rpt) 3:00 Intermitt



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD section with clues and a crossword grid.

SOLUTIONS section providing answers to the cryptic crossword.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with clues and a crossword grid.

lead

Johnson

the Krop

NEWS

in brief

Officials repeat warnings to be careful with fire

Five crews of firefighters yesterday put out a fire near a gas station between Holon and Ashkelon, that is believed to have been caused or made worse by the hot, dry weather.

Heat wave generates record electricity usage

The Israel Electric Corporation yesterday registered a record high for electricity consumption, with a demand totaling 5,800 megawatts recorded at 2 p.m. By comparison, the high registered on June 22 last year was 4,041 megawatts.

Teachers union cancels strike

Teachers Union chairman Avraham Ben-Shabbat cancelled the strike scheduled for today following a meeting with Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell yesterday.

127 schools given administrative independence

In a revolutionary move, the Education Ministry is to grant 127 schools pedagogical and financial independence, effective September 1.

Meanwhile, the Zippori Center in the Jerusalem Forest is offering a special course to prepare advisers for independently administered schools.

Agency leaders visiting former Soviet Union

More than 500 members of the Jewish Agency's Assembly begin a three-day visit to the former Soviet Union today. The group will be divided among seven cities - Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, Odessa, Baku, Tbilisi, and Tashkent.

Car damaged in grenade attack

Two grenades were hurled yesterday at a car at the Mesubim junction, in an attack apparently related to a business dispute. One was hurt, but the car was damaged.

Panel: Bann cigarette vending machines

The Health Ministry's advisory committee on smoking has recommended to the minister that cigarette vending machines be banned, and suggested examining the possibility of gradually removing nicotine from tobacco products.

Mor-Yosef to head Soroka

Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, deputy director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO), has been named director-general of Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Chance draw (174/97) were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, ace of diamonds, and eight of clubs.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Republic of Moldova President Petru Lucinschi speak to reporters after their meeting yesterday in Jerusalem.

Deals expected with Moldova during president's visit here

A slew of bilateral agreements are expected to emerge from the working visit to Israel of the Republic of Moldova's President Petru Lucinschi, who arrived yesterday aboard his personal jet along with his wife and a large entourage of officials and business executives.

States six years ago, Moldova has been trying to upgrade its economy by expanding trade and seeking joint ventures with Israeli firms. Its per capita income in 1992 was only \$1,260, nearly 12 times less than Israel's.

The eight agreements due to be signed during Lucinschi's stay cover economic cooperation, aviation, health, tourism, investment guarantees, exemptions from visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports, and scientific, cultural, and educational exchanges.

Binyamin Netanyahu's information director, David Bar-Ilan, said the opportunities are virtually unlimited. Informed quarters named the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avigdor Lieberman, as the moving force behind the Lucinschi visit.

Yishai: Budget constraints limit facilities for retarded

A bill designed to provide retarded children with the facilities they need is being held up by budgetary constraints, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai told parents of retarded children and representatives of organizations that aid them, at a meeting yesterday.

Ben-Ari's remand extended by 10 days

Zvi Ben-Ari (formerly known as Gregory Lerner) was remanded for a further 10 days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday, after police provided additional incriminating information against the alleged Russian mafia kingpin.

Quick action by naval officers saves Turk's life

Quick action by Israel Navy officers followed by an emergency operation performed by doctors at Haifa's Rambam Hospital almost certainly saved the life of a Turkish navy sailor.

Arab youth found dead in Jerusalem

Nasser Fahami, 17, a resident of Shuafat in Jerusalem, was found dead yesterday in a wadi near a construction site in Pisgat Ze'ev.

WEATHER table with columns for location and temperature ranges. Locations include Haifa, Tiberias, Afeka, Samaria, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Beersheba, Dead Sea, and Elbit.

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. A slight drop in temperature.

AROUND THE WORLD table with columns for city, low, high, and weather. Cities listed include Amsterdam, Berlin, Chicago, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hong Kong, Jakarta, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Moscow, New York, Rome, Stockholm, Sydney, Tokyo, Vienna, and Zurich.

ELDANIT cellular phone advertisement. Features a large '9' inside a circle and text: 'ISRAELI No. 1', 'PER DAY', 'CELLULAR PHONE AVAILABLE'. Includes contact information for various regions.

Riot may lead Ramle to segregate public pool

The Ramle Municipality is considering the possibility of a separation between Arabs and Jews in its municipal swimming pool. Mayor Yoel Lavi admitted that the move is possible, although it may pose a legal problem.

book department advertisement for 'THE MULTI DICTIONARY'. Text includes: 'QUITE POSSIBLY THE ONLY DICTIONARY YOU'LL NEED TO LEARN HEBREW', 'The MULTI DICTIONARY, published by Ad, is a super comprehensive learners' dictionary for beginner and advanced levels.', and a detailed order form with fields for name, address, city, phone, and payment method.

Quick action by naval officers saves Turk's life

Dror Tamir, had boarded the ship on Thursday and was asked to help. He arranged for the sick sailor to be brought ashore and took him to the naval base in Haifa, where he was examined by a doctor who immediately arranged for his admission to Rambam.

Arab youth found dead in Jerusalem

Security forces were stoned as they removed the body from the wadi, and at the entrance to the nearby Shuafat refugee camp the windshield of a Border Police jeep was smashed. The body was taken to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir. Police said that several avenues of investigation are being pursued, including the possibility that the murder is linked to Palestinian Authority threats against land dealers who sell land to Jews.

Dollar soars to NIS 3.48

A-G

Arafat relations

הזמנת השבוע